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AUGUST 2015

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Image: Libby Law

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Editor	Rowan Dixon Ph 09 634 9871 e-mail: rowan.dixon@horse-pony.co.nz
Advertising manager	Sarah McKinlay 09 634 9853, 027 807 8500 e-mail: sarah.mckinlay@fairfaxmedia.co.nz
Sub-editor	Sally Reid
Main contributors	Helen Firth, Annie Studholme, Dr Lucy Waldron, James Hart
Photography	Trish Dunell, Libby Law
Art director	John Berkley
Digital imaging	Willie Coyle
Northern Region Manager	David Penny
Commercial Manager	Duncan Brough
Editorial Director	Kate Coughlan
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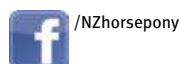
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From the editor

Thanks to all those readers who have made enthusiastic comments about the changes we've been ramping in to your favourite magazine over the last couple of months.

It's a really exciting time to be working in the media, such is the speed of change in the industry thanks to digital technology. It's also really liberating, as no longer do we have to wait for weeks and weeks until the magazine is printed to bring you news and updates from equestrian events around New Zealand and the world; we can now do that via our special section on Stuff.co.nz – I hope that you are able to check it out. Just type our old website address, www.nzhorseandpony.co.nz, into your browser and you will be directed right there.

After all, when the technology exists for on-the-spot reportage, who really wants to

read results and coverage of a show or event weeks or even months afterwards?

Our lovely print magazine, meanwhile, can dedicate itself to something a little more luxe. Alongside training articles and your favourite columnists, we'll be bringing you some fascinating profiles and insights into equestrian lifestyles; personalities, passions and properties.

Watch this space, and please do keep your wonderful feedback coming.

The photo of Luke and me above was taken on one of the very rare occasions I've had a smile on my face while leaving a dressage arena. Usually, Luke looks upon dressage as a form of interpretive dance... and that's not often rewarded by the judges!

Rowan Dixon

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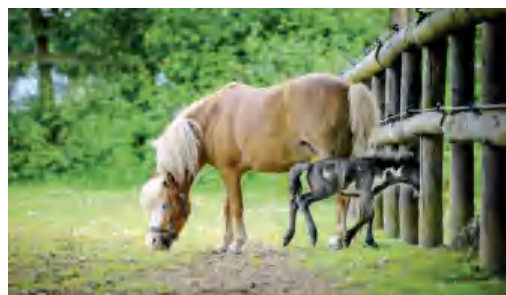
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HELEN RIGBY PHOTOGRAPHY

Jen and MicroDave, who has become a media sensation since his birth in June

Is this the world's cutest mini foal?

He may be pint-sized, but miniature foal MicroDave has been making a giant splash since his birth in mid-June.

The overo colt with blue eyes was just 30cm tall when he was first photographed at three days old, and has quickly become a worldwide media sensation, much to the surprise of his owner and breeder, Jen Baldwin Murphy.

"He was born two weeks early and I was so surprised with how little he was – he's the first foal I have ever bred," says Jen, who is based in Kent in England. "When I first stood next to him, his withers were below my knee! He has a huge personality – he comes galloping up to you squealing and then jumps up at you – and if you sit

down he throws himself on your lap and bites your feet!

"We had the BBC News come round and he totally ate the interviewer – she was covered in bruises. In fact, he has got so much attention he is now a complete diva and if he was human he would wear dark glasses and refuse to sign autographs!" she told *NZ Horse & Pony*.

"He's been so popular – it's been absolutely non-stop with visitors. I have to check people's pockets as they leave to check they haven't stolen him."

Jen, who is a long-time dressage and showing competitor, has only kept miniature horses for two years. "They're my relaxation from the big guys," she says.

She came across MicroDave's sire, an

American miniature colt, for sale and bought him as her husband David's Christmas present. "I called him Little Dave, and always had a plan to breed from him. He has won a lot of championships, and when he passed his stallion grading, David bought me the mare Looking Glass Rustys Red Ribbon, aka Barbie, as she is blonde and blue-eyed.

"The gorgeous MicroDave was the result."

Jen says she had originally planned to sell the foal, but when she saw MicroDave's unusual colouring and blue eyes, she fell in love with him and decided to keep him. "He is going to become a show horse and hopefully a popular breeding stallion," she says.

Fourth time makes history for Andrew

Andrew Nicholson and Avebury cruised to victory in St James's Place Barbury Horse Trials CIC3* in mid July for the fourth consecutive year – and set a new record in the process. It is believed to be the first time in the history of eventing that a horse has won a class of this stature four years in succession.

“He felt superb. The moment I hopped on him I could tell he’s at a place he knows,” said Andrew of the 15-year-old grey, who led from the outset on a mark of 33.9.

Avebury was one of five horses to finish on his dressage score.

“He’s been perky all week. In the warm-up he felt very happy to be here and around the course he felt the same,” added Andrew.

Andrew also finished second on Nereo. “Nereo is class,” added Andrew. “A lot of people forget about him and he’s underrated. But he keeps turning up at these big events and doing his job – he’s very reliable.”



Andrew and Avebury set a new benchmark with their historic win

Sir Mark Todd made up the Kiwi trifecta, finishing third on Leonidas, while Tim Price was fifth on Ringwood Sky Boy.

Of course, Andrew’s striking performance underlines the great pity that Equestrian Sport NZ has yet to find a way to make amends with the world number five; he is still missing from the High Performance Squad despite negotiations to “reintegrate him”.

The revised squad was announced on June 30, and is made up of Jonelle Price with Faerie Dianimo and Classic

Moet, her husband Tim with Wesko, Bango and Ringwood Sky Boy, Sir Mark with Leonidas and NZB Campino, Jock Paget with Cliftons Promise and Lush, Clarke Johnstone with Balmoral Sensation and Caroline Powell with Onwards and Upwards. Lucy Jackson remains on the squad with Willy Do, despite the fact he is currently out with injury.

Jesse Campbell and Lizzie Brown both remain on the HP Accelerator Squad, while Abby Lawrence has been added to the Talent Development Squad.

Dressage comes of age

Dressage New Zealand is at the start of a new era, with the announcement of its first HP squad. On the squad are Penny Castle and Magnus Spero, Julie Brougham and Vom Feinsten, Vanessa Way and KH Arawn, and John Thompson and Bates Antonello – who was bred and produced by Louisa Hill, and competed with her at the 2012 Olympics.

Dressage selector and HP adviser Helen Hughes-Keen says that it marks a coming of age in the sport.

“It’s fantastic – these are the best performers we have ever had.”

It was only in March that a New Zealand dressage combination cracked the all-elusive 70% mark for a Grand Prix test, with Penny and Magnus Spero’s efforts at the Horse of the Year Show.

At the same show, Julie and Vom Feinsten notched up an Australasian record in the GP freestyle with 76.025%, and a New Zealand record in the GP Special, 69.941%.

“I think generally, our whole performance has improved,”

says Helen. “We have always had good horses, but now our riding and training has gone to a new level... we have upped our game.”

Magnus Spero and Vom Feinsten are imported horses, while Arawn and Antonello are New Zealand-bred, both by Anamour.

Also named was an accelerator squad, comprising Penny and BL About Time, Wendi Williamson and Dejavu MH, Tracy Smith and Don Diego, and Catherine West and Anarocz.

Meanwhile, England-based Shiwon Green is delighted to have been selected as the first New Zealand rider to compete at the prestigious World Breeding Champs for Young Dressage Horses, to be held from August 4-9 in Germany.

She will ride her Oldenburg gelding F1 (Floriscourt/Roadster); the pair had a great start to their competitive career last season including a score of 88% to qualify for the ‘potential international’ class at the British Dressage National Champs.

NRM Rider of the Month

TOGETHER, FORWARD



ANNIE STUDBOLME

The NRM Rider of the Month for July is Julie Brougham of Palmerston North.

Julie is an accomplished dressage rider with many achievements under her belt, but she's making history this year with her eye-catching, show-stopping chestnut, Vom Feinsten.

The pair danced their way to victory at the Horse of the Year Show in March, setting a new Australasian freestyle record (76.025%) and a New Zealand GP Special record (69.94%).

And now they've been rewarded with inclusion in Dressage NZ's very first High Performance Squad.

Julie plays to campaign Steiny next at the Olympic qualifier to be staged at Equidays' Festival of Dressage in October, then head across the Tasman for the Australian National Championships.

Many congratulations, Julie, from all of us at NZ Horse & Pony, and we hope that Steiny enjoys his well-deserved NRM feed.



The second coming

The highly anticipated second career comeback of dressage mega-star **Totilas** took place at the CDIO4* in Hagen, Germany in mid-July, where **Matthias Rath** and the black stallion scored over 80% to win both the Grand Prix and the Special. To cap it off, the pair were named on the German team to contest the upcoming European Championships.

Totilas set a swathe of records and mesmerised judges and dressage fans worldwide when he burst on to the scene with his former rider, Dutchman Edward Gal, winning three gold medals at the 2010 World Championships.

But Totilas was then sold to Germany's Paul Schockemöhle and Ann-Kathrin Linsenhoff, and the ride given to Ann-Kathrin's stepson, Matthias Rath. It took considerable time for the pair to cement a partnership, and the horse was then sidelined with injury.

After Toto briefly returned to form, Matthias developed a severe case of glandular fever which meant he had to withdraw from the 2012 Olympics.

Following that, the pair moved to the Netherlands to work with Sjef Janssen, coach of the Dutch team, presumably to experience the training techniques that Totilas was familiar with while in the care of Edward.

It seemed to pay off – Matthias and Totilas burst back on to the world stage at Aachen last August, where they famously beat the golden duo of Charlotte Dujardin and Valegro.

But once again, Totilas was sidelined with injury soon afterwards, withdrawing from the World Equestrian Games.

Now 15, Totilas has emerged from his

year-long hiatus looking fit and strong, according to EuroDressage's Astrid Appels, though she believes that like other "god-horses-among-mortals", he gets more credit from the judges than his performance always warrants.

"Was the comeback ride in Hagen a bad one? Of course not," she wrote. "Was it a brilliant 80% earning test? Not really!"

Astrid says the trot extension remains a weak point, with the front legs flying in the air but the hind legs not tracking up, the half-passes uneven in rhythm, and the horse "bops his head", especially in passage.

But she praised the passage in general, the extended walk, most of the canter work (especially the pirouettes), and Matthias's light contact with the bit.

"He deserves commendation for a very good ride and for his nerves of steel... but for the fairness of the sport and out of respect towards the other competitors, the judges need to stay sober and focused on Totilas's tests and judge what happens in front of them instead of rewarding name and fame.

"If Totilas can stay fit until the European Champs, the fight for medals will be a very exciting one. He makes the sport more exciting and it's great to have him back!"

Joining him on the highly rated team for Germany are Kristina Bröring-Sprehe and Desperados FRH, Jessica von Bredow-Werndl and Unece BB, and Isabell Werth and Don Johnson FRH.

Sadly, Isabell withdrew her sensational stable star, Bella Rose, from contention for selection as she has yet to recover from a knee injury sustained last November. **H&P**

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GENTLE GIANT

This is Tyson. He is my six-year-old Clydesdale-cross gelding. He is an absolute sweetheart of a horse who had a bit of a rough start to life. Since I've had him we have taken on many challenges for confidence and trust. This is us doing Working Equitation Day which was a first for us. I thought this captured his kind and trusting expression as we negotiated the rope gate.

Sally Curtis, Motueka



TOUGH ENOUGH

Snow coming in to the shed as the blacksmith was shoeing the horses. A cold day in the ranges north of Gisborne.

Rebecca Williams, Gisborne



COLOUR CO-ORDINATED

This is Sultan, my daughter Anna's dear little autumn-coloured pony. He blends so well amongst the reds and golds of the trees at this time of year.

Jo Van Dissen, Wainuiomata



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WINNER'S CIRCLE

This month's winner is **Shirley Wilshire** of Lake Benmore in the Mackenzie District, who writes:

"I'm all frozen Mum, and my hair has gone white! I've long icicles in my tail too but I'm not bothered. I love galloping around in the snow but I didn't do so well at ice skating. I went for a drink at my pond and but the water had gone so I took a step out to find it and... whoopsie... I'm not doing that again." This is Oscar Sausage, our 9hh Shetland, doing just fine in -20 degrees which followed a big snow dump.

It lasted a week but he did just fine and not a shiver shown. Sticking my fingers into his hair, the inside layer was always dry and warm. My Percheron was double-rugged though!



SNOW PLOUGH

I took this photo of Billy, my mum's cob, trudging through at least half metre of snow, from the last snow storm. You can see it is still snowing on the hills in the background. He is truly in his element as he was conceived in the "big snow" of 2006, so he is an out-of-season foal. He is an excellent horse to have around, especially in the snow making tracks for the other horses.

Emily Chamberlain, Methven



STARTING EARLY

This is one-and-a-half-year-old Charlie Rayner who couldn't wait until he got home from the supermarket to read her I&P magazine so fished it out of the shopping bag en route!

Libby Rayner, Marton



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Winter care for



GOLDEN OLDIES



Here's how to keep older horses happy and healthy through the cold weather and into a new spring, by **Rowan Dixon**

Just like us, as horses age they find cold weather more difficult to cope with. Horses in their early 20s and older can have trouble holding on to their weight, find it hard getting down on the ground to sleep or roll and then getting up again, and even struggle moving around well over winter. Snow, sub-freezing temperatures and icy conditions underfoot may keep an older horse from doing even basic daily activities, such as grazing and walking to the water trough.

There are two areas of winter management that have the biggest impact on the health of your four-legged geriatric, feeding and rugging.

// People tend to underestimate the amount of food that older horses need in winter'

DUSTY PERIN



// If older horses don't get enough to eat, they can easily spiral into a weight-loss cycle'

Warmth from within

As Vets North director, Dr Dave van Zwanenberg, explains: in cold weather, horses use their digestive system to stay warm. This happens in two ways; within a few minutes of eating, the horse's digestive processes start to generate body heat. And longer term, any calories that are not immediately converted to energy and used to support body function can then be stored as fat, which helps to insulate against the cold.

Forage feeds, especially hay, are metabolised more slowly than grain-based hard feeds and because hay has a longer burn time, it produces more heat in the gut. "Basically, heat is a by-product of the digestion of hay in the large intestine, and along with the actual energy provided by the hay, this helps horses maintain a normal body temperature," says Dave.

Feeding hay, and lots of it, will go a long way to keeping a horse of any age warm.

With all of this in mind, there is a four-step approach to feeding older horses in the winter.

1. Try to put weight on your older horse in the autumn, so he goes into winter with a body condition score of at least 5; ribs not visible, fat around his tail head slightly spongy, and his shoulder blending smoothly into his body. But don't overdo it; older joints don't need to be carrying an obese body around.
2. Increase a horse's feed intake during the winter months. An ideal is free-choice hay all day and all night. Older horses with dental issues may find it hard to chew hay properly, so you can try a chopped hay/chaff product, or haylage. Soaked sugarbeet is another easily digested source of fibre.
3. Feed only good quality hay. Stemmy, stalky hay is not digested well by horses of any age, making it useless in helping a horse gain body condition or stay warm.
4. Monitor your older horse's weight during the season, increasing feed if necessary. Dave suggests adding calories as "lovely, energy-dense oil" (introduced gradually to the diet), and also swears by Gumnuts. Lucy says that many older horses do best on soaked or moist feeds, or processed/steam-conditioned feeds. "And highly digestible sources of protein, such as milk-based products, heat-processed protein grains or processed (ensiled or pelleted) lucerne can be good at preventing muscle loss."

"This kind of long-fibre forage generates lots of internal heat due to hind gut fermentation," explains equine nutritionist, Dr Lucy Waldron.

So it makes sense that a horse who has access to hay all night long is going to be much more comfortable than one who only gets a slice which is gobbled up by dark.

As a result, it's sensible to increase your older horse's feed ration during the winter – and make sure there are always enough piles of hay in the paddock that horses who are low down in the herd's pecking order can get their share.

"People tend to underestimate the amount of food that older horses need in winter," says Dave. "They won't appreciate how much nutrition their horse gets from the grass from the pasture in the warmer months, and don't give them enough hay to make up the difference."

If older horses don't get enough to eat, they can easily spiral into a weight-loss cycle – they use all the energy from their feed to stay warm, which makes them even thinner, so they have to use even more energy to stay warm.

As Dave says, older horses are prone to losing muscle mass through a lack of use, from Cushing's disease, and also from being forced to use their own body tissues as an energy source if they are not given enough to eat.

"Fat is an energy store – if there is a net gain then fat is deposited, if there is a deficit it is used as an energy source. An older horse losing muscle and fat as a result of these tissues being used as an energy source has a net deficit of energy entering the body, this is an early sign that the horse's daily feed requirements are not being met," he says.

Additionally, when the majority of a

horse's nutrients go to keeping him warm, he has fewer resources left for fighting off illness or repairing tissues, leading to a decline in overall health.

Compounding the problem is the fact that older horses lose the ability to digest food as efficiently as young horses. "Poor teeth and reduced enzyme secretion are both a characteristic of ageing," says Lucy. "Both of these issues reduce the ability to digest feed – as chewing is the first point of digestion, and enzymes are needed to complete the process."

"Older horses' teeth are typically less efficient at grinding up roughage into small particles," Dave explains. "This gives the gut bacteria less surface area to work on, so less of the material is digested on its way through the large intestine."

So, even if they are being fed the same amount of feed as the younger horses, they will not utilise it all.

Rugging up

Although mother nature has provided horses with their own winter coats to protect them even in sub-zero temperatures, appropriate use of rugs is an important part of taking care of an older horse during the winter, especially if he is suffering from arthritis, as the cold weather makes it hard to move around to generate heat.

Even a perfectly healthy older horse is going to have a harder time staying warm when it is wet and/or windy, and particularly if they are clipped.

A cold horse not only will lose weight, but he will also become stressed and weak as his body struggles to maintain its temperature. This can lead to a compromised immune system, less able to fight off illness and infection.

But don't just shove a heavyweight rug on your horse the moment the temperature drops and leave it there until spring. Especially in the north of the country –



DUSTY PERIN

but even in the deep south – sunny afternoon temperatures can get up around 20 degrees. Sweltering and sweating under a heavy cover is just as uncomfortable for your horse as being too cold, and it's just

// Sweltering and sweating under a heavy cover is just as uncomfortable for your horse as being too cold'



DUSTY PERIN



as much of a welfare issue because it can cause dehydration, electrolyte mineral loss and nasty skin conditions. It also makes horses plain miserable – there is no escape or relief from overheating.

If you can't be there to take a heavy rug off for a few hours on a warm day, then leave your horse during the day in a waterproof but lighter-weight rug, such as a no-fill synthetic or a canvas rug, and put the heavy one back on at night.

Also have a think about your horse's breed and type. A thin-skinned, fine-coated thoroughbred, or an Arabian

(whose ancestors evolved in desert climates which can get cold but are never wet) will need a warmer rug than a sturdy cob or stationbred. Many ponies, such as Shetlands, are best completely unrugged as long as they are also unclipped.

Over-rugging, especially in a pony prone to laminitis, leads to a negative cycle of ill-health. Without a rug, the pony will utilise any excess body tissue to stay warm, and will also keep moving and therefore exercising – both of these are good ways of reducing the incidence of laminitis.

The air temperature is less of an issue for horses than the wind and rain. Horses are quite comfortable unrugged even right down to sub-zero temperatures on a dry, still day – sleet and hail, or a biting sou'wester, is another matter altogether.

If you're not sure about rugging, watch your horse for signs that he is cold. The most obvious is shivering, which revs the horse's metabolism and burns calories – but not for long and at an extremely high cost.

If your horse is shivering, he needs drying off and warming up with an extra layer.

No particular brand or style of rug is best for older horses, but a good fit is crucial. If a younger horse gets tangled up in too-long straps, for example, he can usually shred the rug to bits and get himself free; an older horse might not have the strength or the energy to fight his way out. Be very particular when fitting and doing up your older horse's rug.

And finally, take off your horse's rug regularly. Every day is ideal, but a few times a week will suffice.

A lot of problems can go on unseen under a winter rug, including weight loss and bacterial and fungal skin infections. Thinner horses are also prone to cover rubs, as they lack the cushion of fat over their withers, hips and shoulders – unchecked, these can develop into pressure sores.

Take-home message

This time of year is the harshest for the older members of the herd. With attentive feeding and appropriate rugging, you can lessen the worst of the winter burden and help your golden oldies greet the warmer weather ahead with a spring in their step.

// Horses are quite comfortable unrugged even right down to sub-zero temperatures on a dry, still day'



DUSTY PERIN

Winter woes

Several health conditions common in older horses are aggravated by winter weather.

Respiratory disease: Extremely cold air, inhaled deeply, can irritate lung tissue. Being turned out in a quiet herd is fine, but think twice before putting your older horse in a paddock with rambunctious young horses, as over-exerting himself in very cold weather will cause airway problems.

Poor mobility: Horses with arthritis, recurrent hoof abscesses or chronic laminitis may find it difficult to negotiate muddy or frozen ground. Slush, snow and ice are hazardous underfoot. Try and keep your older horses in paddocks with the best traction, ideally on fairly flat but not low-lying ground.

Arthritis: If you have arthritis, or know somebody who does, you'll notice your bad joints hurt more in the cold. It's safe to assume it's the same for horses. Using anti-inflammatory medications can help, but it's also good management to keep your horse as active as possible. If he is stabled, make sure he is hand-walked daily.

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Wunderbar... my life in Germany

Kiwi dressage rider Andrea Bank feels like she's died and gone to heaven since basing herself and her stallion Doringcourt at the yard of German team trainer Jonny Hilberath.

She talks about her experiences in an international dressage yard and shares some training tips, with **Helen Firth** Images: **Libby Law**

The first time I rode for Jonny I was nervous and it went very badly. There were quite a few other people in the arena watching and I didn't know what to do, because I knew Jonny's way of training was completely different. In my mind, all I could think about was him training the German team, so I was freaking out, and Roy was tense because it was a new place...he was diabolical and I was diabolical! It was a disaster, honestly the worst I'd ever ridden and the worst my horse had ever gone, and I really think Jonny was wondering what he had done, agreeing to take us on. It was kind of funny and I actually didn't care because I decided that from then on it was only going to get better!

When I first went to Jonny's we had a lot of work to do. We went back to the basics. He basically said there was no language between me and my horse; that he didn't know what I was doing

and I didn't know what he was doing. And Jonny was completely right – it was what had been missing the whole time. In New Zealand, I would go into the arena and Roy would just take over. Everybody would say it looked good, but it didn't feel right and I knew we could do so much better. We didn't have confidence in each other and so we'd end up against each other the whole time. I was being too controlling, but it wasn't in the right way. I was beginning to feel that he was really shutting down on me, which was not good, because he's such a happy horse and loves to be ridden. Jonny explained that it wasn't my fault but it didn't have to be like that either. I think I'm a completely different rider now.

When I watched Jonny ride Roy for the first time, I couldn't believe the change in my horse that happened in front of my eyes. He was just suddenly moving like I've never seen him move before, so

powerfully. Jonny is able to create so much natural energy without pressure. He really gets the horses wanting to work for you. With Johnny, it's never the horse's fault; it's always the rider's fault.

There are no special tricks, we just use simple exercises, but we are patient. One of the biggest differences I've noticed over here about the general way of the horse going is that in New Zealand we tend to want the biggest trot and the biggest passage and we don't care how we get it; we

**// With Jonny,
it's never the
horse's fault;
it's always
the rider's
fault'**



just hold and drive and the horses aren't in self-carriage or through their bodies. Over here, they do the opposite: they just sit so quietly and wait until the horses find their balance and let go in their body.

Jonny is quite classical in his training: your horse has to be in self-carriage. There's no pulling back. Of course when you're correcting the horse if you have to be strong with him in that moment that's

absolutely fine, but it has to be a positive correction that the horse understands. Self-carriage means the horse is completely on your seat and in front of the leg, and carrying its own head around. You should be able to put your hands forward and nothing should really change in front.

Building confidence and connection

Jonny teaches the horses to react off his voice. We don't ride with whips and there are no extra gadgets. The horse has to be tuned in to you as a rider, completely. Jonny uses all these different noises when he rides; it's actually quite funny. Of course he clicks, but he also has different voice cues, and if the horses are naughty he won't hit them, but he'll get really angry at them in his voice.

Jonny also makes the training so much fun for the horses. If he's training piaffe and the horse does two small steps, he stops and makes a big fuss of that horse. And then you see him do it again and the horse feels so good and confident it does four really good steps.

The collection should happen naturally and not be forced in any way. Roy's mind was quite backwards going into collection, because it is hard work and we had been working against each other. We actually had to change his mind to think forwards into collection. Probably the biggest thing we had to teach him was to take off from behind with his hind legs first, as he used to grab in front and lock and then not come through properly from behind. He has to carry himself the whole time. I have to refuse to carry him.

// In New Zealand we tend to want the biggest trot and the biggest passage and we don't care how we get it...'



Andrea (28) was an accomplished dressage rider in New Zealand, including winning the FEI Prix St Georges at the 2012 World Dressage Challenge with Doringcourt. But training with Jonny, who led the German team to a silver medal at the 2012 Olympics, has taken her riding to a new level: "My eyes have been opened up to a whole new world and I am more inspired than I have ever been. I am truly learning the art of the finest level of classical dressage. The way Jonny trains and the bond he creates with horses is something very special. He's an absolute genius."

Warming up

The warming up is the most important part of the work. We very rarely ride the Grand Prix exercises; instead we're training exercises that strengthen the horse's body and working on their weaknesses. We've only just started putting all the Grand Prix work together. What's the point in doing that until your horse is going how Jonny wants your horse to go, which is a pretty high standard – he's such a perfectionist!

We always walk the horses for quite a long time at the start, especially in the winter, because it's so cold. We'll stretch them in walk, trot and canter, but when they're stretching, they're working. After we've done the stretching, we walk the horses again. Then we pick them up and usually start in canter. I much prefer to

do my trot work after I've cantered, as the canter improves the trot.

We never ride on the outside track, but always work on the inside track, which helps to keep the horse straight. We also do a lot of counter-canter, around the whole arena and on circles. That is honestly such a good exercise and it has really helped me and Roy. To do it properly, the way Jonny wants us to do it, with the horse in self-carriage, is really hard, but I love it and it's what I do nearly every day for my warm-up, along with a lot of leg-yielding across the whole arena. The hind legs have to be active and underneath you, and it requires a lot of strength.

We've actually had to change Roy's warm-up a lot, because he's a stallion and he's quite clever and finds ways out.

Sometimes we have to make things tricky for him or change it regularly just to keep his mind busy, because he gets bored.

Another good exercise is riding leg-yield down the wall. The horse's head and neck are more or less in the middle and you push the bum to the inside. It's a really good strengthening exercise, but again you have to wait until the horse can do it in self-carriage. Everything comes so much more easily when the horses are carrying themselves. As soon as they lock against you they go dead in their bodies. If you can get them soft in front and carrying themselves, they react and move off your leg.

Of course, the horse always has one side that they struggle with more, but the worst thing you can do is sit against it. A



lot of us push on to our outside seatbone when we're trying to get our leg on, so although we're wanting the horse to move left, we're sitting to the right and bracing against them. As soon as you sit down through your inside seatbone and shift your weight to the inside you'd be sur-

// You can't carry on like you're the best in the world, like some people do, until you are the best in the world!

prised how much easier they move over.

We stretch the horses to start and finish. After we work them, we trot and canter them around pretty much on the buckle and let them go as fast as they want to – it's like their time to let go and have fun. It's so good for their minds and it's the way you get more energy as well, because you don't interfere with them in any way. It's great for horses that don't have a natural medium trot, because they suddenly find another gear.

Horse management

You have to have a really good maintenance programme in place. I'm pretty

lucky – I have a great farrier and a wonderful physio who works closely with Jonny's vet. I've also been fortunate with Roy in that he's been a very sound horse and he handles the work so well. He's 11 now and he looks completely different – he's so big in the body. It's amazing to see the change.

Managing the workload is also so important in a Grand Prix horse – you can't just keep hounding them. If we've worked Roy really hard one day, we obviously change what we'll do the next and be careful to let him recover.

I never really give Roy a day off, because he's got so much energy, but some days I will free-lunge him, just with the halter



Andrea's partner Brett Davey, an Australian Grand Prix dressage rider and trainer, is with her in Germany and has recently started training with Jonny too; the pair are enjoying every aspect of learning about the European scene

and the lunge line. He's stabled, but I make sure I get him out of his stable three times a day, to hand graze him or put him on the horse walker or in the paddock. He's very spoilt!

As for my own fitness, to tell you the truth, I ride my bike a bit but I don't do a lot of exercise apart from riding. I would much prefer to be on a horse than in the gym. You don't want really hard, strong muscles as a rider anyway, because it goes through to the horse. You have to be light on a horse. Of course, you need to be strong when they're strong, in the moment, but you don't want to be like a bodybuilder; it's different.

Why I love being here

For my riding, this is where I have to be, although it's not easy at all, because I can't have a team of my own horses. Dressage is my passion and I want to do it properly and learn. It's not about being in the lime-light and you can't carry on like you're the best in the world, like some people do, until you **are** the best in the world! Jonny is so humble and there is no nastiness allowed at his yard. I really look up to him not just as a trainer, but as a person, which I think is so important as a rider, to have something to aspire to. Johnny really loves Roy too. He's not perfect, he's not Valegro at all, but he's got the coolest brain.

At the yard, we have this really strong liquorice-flavoured vodka from Finland, and if you have a bad day and ride like an idiot, everybody makes you have a shot. I remember the first time Jonny screamed at me – I had been there for a week. A couple of the other riders said: "Andrea, that was your initiation, welcome. Now you're a part of it!"

I plan to do Grand Prix this season. It's very exciting.

H&P

What to do with WOUNDS

Dr Michelle Logan explains when a wound needs urgent veterinary attention, how wounds heal and shares tips for a first aid kit
Images: **Dusty Perin**

Some horses seem to be accident prone. It can be very frightening to go out and see that your horse or pony has a wound. However careful we are with our paddocks, stables and yards, it seems that some horses are able to find something to injure themselves on, sometimes with disastrous consequences.

If there is any chance that a joint or tendon may be affected by a wound then it is always better to get veterinary attention sooner rather than later.

It is often small, deep, puncture wounds that cause problems.

There are a lot of 'synovial structures' in the lower legs. Synovial structures is the term used for joints and tendon sheaths (the cushioning layer around some tendons).

Once these become infected and inflamed there is a potential for permanent damage to occur. Joints often have 'pouches', which means that the joint

pocket can be some way from what we think of as the joint. A wound that is anywhere near a joint should be examined by a vet to see if the joint has been affected.

Bleeding from wounds

OFTEN IT CAN look like a lot of blood has been lost and this is, of course, of great concern – but horses do have a lot of blood. Around 8% of a horse's bodyweight is blood, so a 500kg horse has about 40 litres of blood. Something to bear in mind is that a 500kg horse can lose 6-8 litres of blood before it would physically affect the horse, and 12-16 litres before it becomes life-threatening. However, bleeding should still be stopped (if you can do so safely) by applying pressure to a wound while waiting for the vet to arrive.

Tetanus

THE BACTERIA which cause the life-threatening disease tetanus are present in the soil and can easily infect a horse through a wound. If a horse is not up-to-date with tetanus vaccinations then a short-term rapidly acting tetanus antitoxin will need to be given to prevent the disease.

// A wound that is anywhere near a joint should be examined by a vet to see if the joint has been affected'





Clockwise from above left: this horse was found in the paddock in late March last year, covered in blood, with an initial wound that looked like two huge punctures and a deep tear, as if he had got caught on something. After a week in a vet clinic, the outer layer of skin sloughed off, leaving a gaping wound (top left, image taken in early April). The vet debrided the proud flesh around a month later (top right). By July, healing was well under way (above) and by August 21, (left and centre) it was completely healed

How do wounds heal?

WOUND HEALING HAPPENS in several different overlapping stages. It starts with an **acute inflammatory phase** which lasts about four to five days. This is where the body sends inflammatory cells to the site of the wound to try clear up any bacteria or dirt contamination. This is why in the first few days the dressing often gets soaked through very quickly with what we call exudate, which is fluid and dead cells, all aiming to clean the wound and remove contamination. The dressing needs to be changed more often during this phase. Next is the **proliferative phase**, which is when granulation forms. This is the pink sponge-like tissue that rapidly fills in the wound – too much of this is what we call **proud flesh**.

Epithelialisation and **contraction** also now occur. Contraction of the wound makes it rapidly smaller – this more easily happens with wounds on the body as there is more skin available compared to the legs. Epithelialisation is what we call the very thin layer of skin growing in from the edges of the wound. This takes time to grow across the wound and explains why wounds on the legs, which can't do much contracting, take longer to heal.

Epithelialisation can be a difficult process and can be hindered by several factors. If the wound gets too dry then it will slow down. Proud flesh which bulges out over the surrounding skin will stop this layer of skin growing over the wound. Even a dressing which sticks to the wound can result in this layer being pulled off,

When to call the vet

Always call your vet for advice on any wound, but you need to call immediately if :

- the wound is deep
- there is a lot of bleeding
- it is anywhere that could be near a joint or tendon or other vital structure on the legs
- it involves the eye/eyelids
- it is into the chest or abdomen
- it involves other vital parts eg. sinuses, mouth, axilla (equivalent of our armpit), groin, neck etc.
- the horse is showing signs of lameness
- tetanus vaccination is not up-to-date



Top and above: cold hosing is an effective first aid response to a nasty leg gash. Above right: a back wound caused by a kick in the paddock; painful but not serious

with a bandage change slowing down the healing.

Finally once the epithelialisation has closed over the wound, we get **remodelling**. This minimises scar size and can still be happening three weeks to more than a year after the wound has happened. (This may also explain why some ointments appear to reduce a scar – it could be that remodelling was minimising the scar anyway).

Factors that delay healing

THERE ARE SEVERAL factors that will delay wound healing. A lot of these are more common in leg wounds. These delaying factors can result either in a wound that is slow to heal or in one that develops proud

flesh. Here are 10 main factors that can delay healing:

1. **Infection** – by bacteria, viruses and fungi will delay healing. A wound must be cleaned thoroughly and a good bandage will prevent reinfection. Antibiotics may be used by your vet if they are indicated.
2. **Movement** – this is particularly important on the legs. Movement makes it harder for the wound to fill in, delays healing and can often result in proud flesh. Confining the horse to a small area, using a thick padded bandage and sometimes even a cast are all ways that movement is restricted to encourage healing.
3. **Presence of a foreign body** – this

just means something present in the wound that shouldn't be there. Soil or small splinters of wood are good examples; a clean wound is vital.

4. **Presence of necrotic (dead) tissue** – this is skin, muscle or tendon that has lost its blood supply and dies off. This then acts as a foreign body. Vets will often cut off flaps that have lost the blood supply, as although it makes the wound bigger to start with, removing dead tissue actually allows healing to progress. Sometimes the flap will be left in place initially to protect the rest of the wound. A skin flap may also trap dirt at the junction with normal skin which may be another reason for it to be removed.



Home solutions

We asked you to share some household first aid tips for horses. Here's what you had to say:

KRISTEL MACK SAUNDERS Make your own cold packs by using Palmolive dishwashing liquid and water in a resealable bag. The dishwashing liquid stops the water freezing solid so you can shape it to the area needed.

LISA PRESTON Large plastic tool boxes are great for first aid storage. They fit all bandages, nappies, lotions and potions. The lift out trays are handy for scissors and hoof knives and plastic compartments keep tiny items together. Carry handle useful for running across the paddock. Lid is lockable to keep water and rodents out. Finally these boxes are strong enough to stand on to give you more height if you're short like me!

KRISTIN BAYLIS Ask your vet to save used up IV bags – the plastic is mega strong and are useful for things like a foot soak bag (cut one end open, fill with soak, tape to hoof not too tight most liquid will stay in), or taping to hooves to walk them through somewhere muddy if their feet and lower legs need to stay clean.

LOUISE GEE If your horse has a wound on the body but needs to be rugged, a thick maternity sanitary pad stuck either side of the wound will stop pressure from the rug. Great for skinny rescues' withers and hips to stop pressure sores too.

CAROLINE CORNISH GIBBS Dare I say this one – learnt from working in a polo yard – hemorrhoid cream to heal cut mouths! (bags I don't go to the shops) and sugardene – sugar and Vetadine under a nappy to poultice hoof. I have a roll of Gladwrap in my car since my friend's horse ripped its side open and they wrapped her up to hold everything in.

PENNY RIETER For a horse with bad mud fever I cut the toes out of men's rugby socks and pull them on her legs like slouch socks, works a treat! With 11 high maintenance horses I have learnt to be thrifty.

MICHELLE LEE Oldie but a goodie, yeast is a great poultice. Buy it in a jar at the supermarket. It will last years in your kit. To use just mix a handful with warm water to make a paste and smear it on

the wound. Great especially for puncture wounds. It seals the wound, draws out the gunk, sets and flakes out.

RACHEL BALL I like to have big tubs of Vaseline on hand which becomes a foundation for all sorts; use with a couple of drops of eucalyptus oil for noses, also great for stressed horses with lavender and other essential oils for calming. Also large pots of zinc – ask at chemist and tell them it's for a baby and it's cheap as chips for large pots

REBECCA JANE NAIRN Non-toxic super glue for minor flesh wounds.

HUIA AOTEAROA Use coconut oil on small wounds to help healing and keep them from drying out. Raw manuka honey for wounds and healing without proud flesh – a friend's yearling went through a fence, the vet said gonner, we slathered on the honey and bingo – needs to have 'raw' on the label; if they boil it (like most honey) it will lose antiseptic qualities.

STEPHANIE POOL A tyre inner to keep hoof poultices clean and dry. Slide hoof in. Fold over the front of the hoof and tie with baling twine or the likes. Used on my friends mare that as really good at getting normal Shoofs off! LOL!

LEANNE CHAMBERLIN Rather than using disposable nappies, Honeywrap (beeswax wrap) is an eco-friendly (and harder wearing, more malleable) alternative. Cover the underside of the hoof with Animalintex, then keep the dirt out (and the poultice on) with one of these: www.honeywrap.co.nz/. You can re-use after rinsing them. They're great because they are tacky, so they act a bit like an adhesive bandage, but have the added advantage of keeping the water and dirt out. Also great for wrapping school lunches!

LEESHA CONWAY I've just discovered teat cream (for cows) for mud fever. I have a mare that has had mud fever develop from a half-healed wound (due to a disagreement with a fence!). I have tried all suggestion on how to treat it with no success. Been using the teat cream for two days and it's almost completely gone!

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// Young horses usually heal better than older ones'

5. **Continued trauma** – this is quite obvious but a wound caused by something rubbing won't heal if whatever caused it is still rubbing.
6. **Human factors** – something that we may do to the wound that delays healing. It can mean the wrong dressing, a bandage that isn't changed often enough or is too tight or the use of a topical ointment that inhibits rather than helps healing.
7. **Large deficit** – a large wound with a lot of tissue missing will take longer to heal as the granulation tissue has to fill in the gap. The blood supply also has to grow back.
8. **Poor blood and/or oxygen supply.** These are both important for healing. It is thought that using a dressing that prevents oxygen getting to the wound may encourage the formation of proud flesh, so using a breathable dressing is advised.
9. **Health status of the horse.** The age of the horse affects healing (young horses usually heal better than older ones), whether it is a pony or a horse affects healing (ponies usually heal better than horses) and if the horse has Cushing's syndrome then healing can be delayed.
10. **Sarcoid.** Wounds can turn into sarcoids. We don't know if this is because flies which can carry a virus (bovine papillomavirus type 1, BPV) are attracted to the wound and deposit the virus there, resulting in a sarcoid,

or whether it is actually something in the healing process that changes and causes a tumour to form instead. The start of a sarcoid can look like proud flesh so it can be difficult to tell early on if this has happened, but it is something to bear in mind in a non-healing wound.

Complications

Common complications are proud flesh and infection. With any complications of wound healing, you should seek veterinary advice. Infections will need to be treated, proud flesh removed and then if any of the other above factors are present these will need to be managed to allow healing to take place.

Hopefully, by having an understanding of how healing occurs and also what stops healing, then you will be able to manage any wounds you are unfortunate enough to encounter, and so keep conditions as ideal as possible for healing.

A basic first aid kit

You can buy elaborate (and expensive) equine first aid kits made up for you, but they often have items you'll never use. Here are my suggestions for a simple kit that will cover most emergencies.

- Water/saline. A simple solution can be made with 9g salt (1.5 teaspoons) in a litre of water, or buy contact lens saline solution from a chemist.
- Bandage material. You need a poultice such as Animalintex, dressings such

as Melonin or Telfa pads, an absorbable padding such as gamgee, and an outer layer such as Vetwrap. Stock up with plenty of each.

- Iodine - use very dilute.
- A torch with longlife quality batteries.
- Hardware. You need wire cutters, scissors and tweezers.
- Cotton swabs and cotton wool.
- A few cool packs, or grab frozen peas from the freezer.
- Your vet's phone number.

First Aid Checklist

1. Safety for everyone is the first priority.
2. Get help, call the vet if needed.
3. Look at the whole horse not just the wound – there may be something else going on.
4. Stop any bleeding (if safe to do so).
5. Clean wounds thoroughly; saline is a good option, no strong antiseptics.
6. If veterinary attention not needed then bandage in three layers – dressing, absorptive layer, outer layer.
7. Ensure tetanus vaccination up-to-date.

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Keeping it in the family

Claire Wilson catches up with Show Jumping Waitemata supremo, Emma Buckingham

Emma Buckingham (nee Blair) comes from a well-known horsey family in the Waitemata region, north-west of Auckland. Her father, Lance, is the man behind Cricklewood Horse Coaches, and mum Louise is equally highly regarded in show hunter administration. With Emma at the helm, Show Jumping Waitemata has taken out the accolade of 'best show' for three years in a row, so I decided to find out some more about this highly motivated young gun of show organisation, nurse and mother-of-one.

// It's time for some more of my generation and younger to get involved in running their sport and take control of where it is heading'

You are actively involved in the show jumping world as both a rider and show organiser, despite your busy lifestyle as a nurse and mother. Do you believe that more riders need to find the time to 'give back' to the sport?

Absolutely, the sport will never run without volunteer input. I strongly believe that if you enjoy the sport you need to put something back, and this starts at your local level. It's time for some more of my generation and younger to get involved in running their sport and take control of where it is heading. I believe for the sport to go ahead we need to attract big corporate sponsors. To attract these sponsors I think we need to make changes to the way the sport is delivered to the public and I'm sure there are plenty of young people out there with great ideas who could make this happen.

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BARBARA THOMSON

Like mother, like daughter... Emma competing Dawn in the Amateur series class at the Waitemata World Cup Show at Woodhill Sands in February and (right) on her dam, the talented Antipodes at the 2001 Horse of the Year Show; she was a successful Grand Prix mare and won the Young Rider Championship in 2000

Both your parents, Louise and Lance Blair, are keen and knowledgeable horse enthusiasts. What have you learnt from them? .

I come from a long line of volunteers. My grandmother, Jane Vallings, was the president of Waitemata Show Jumping for many, many years. Mum put years of service into pony club and this followed on into show hunter as we moved on from pony club. Putting something back into the sport was instilled in me early. If I wanted to enjoy the sport I needed to help out, as even back then the courses didn't put themselves up.

How long have you been at the steering wheel of SJ Waitemata?

Four years now.

You seem to have a great team of workers in your area! Is there any one person who plays a pivotal part in the running of your shows?

We are very fortunate to have a great crew who are incredibly passionate about the sport. Team work is the key; we couldn't do it without everyone's involvement. Last season to run the World Cup Final we split our committee into sub-groups. This gave others a chance to shine and take on more responsibility. Everyone has their own individual skills and we try to make the most of them.

Some great ideas have come out working this way.

With the elaborate greenery around each jump at your shows, there must be some passionate gardeners on your committee. Are you a creative gardener and is this something you have encouraged at the shows that you help organise?

I enjoy gardening and spend plenty of time in my garden, especially the vege

garden. I did play a part in the decorating of the [World Cup] show and spent the winter collating ideas on Pinterest. However, we are privileged to have enormous input from local nursery, T & M Nurseries. The area is also very lucky to have many experienced gardeners; amongst those are Emma and Rhonda Goddard who put in many hours to make sure our main ring looks top class. I joked before the show that we should



CHELEKEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Emma in Mummy mode ringside with her daughter Molly (right) and little friend Finn Cubitt



Molly is already showing a keen interest in ponies

really be advertising it as the Woodhill Flower Show rather than the World Cup Final to get a few more spectators in the gate.

How did it feel to win the ESNZ prize for the best show for three years in a row? It was really exciting. The first time was for the North Island Champs and was a

bit of a surprise but I think it was a great boost for our committee and drove us to lift our game the following year. The second year we won the award for the World Cup Final which we ended up hosting at the last minute by default. It was great to be rewarded for a lot of hard work. Our group always looks to improve on what we have done the season before so the 2015 World Cup Final was a step up again; it was fantastic to be acknowledged with the win again.

What can we expect from the 2016 Waitemata World Cup show? Have you any big changes or improvements in the pipelines?

We are always looking to improve so yes, you will see an improved World Cup final in 2016. In fact, planning for 2016 started before the first horse was in the ring at our last show. Our focus last year was to showcase the sport to the wider public by providing entertainment that included more than just horses jumping sticks. We put a lot of effort into advertising and we were rewarded with thousands of spectators enjoying our sport; this can only be a good thing! Next year the World Cup Final will be a three-day show. We have also taken on the North Island Championships for

2015/16 and this will take place after Horse of the Year over Easter Weekend.

You are well-renowned as an exceptional cook. Do you still cook gourmet food in your horse truck? What is your show signature dish?

I'm not sure about 'exceptional' but I really enjoy good food and wine. If I'm not thinking about horses I'm probably thinking about my next food mission. We don't go to that many 'away' shows these days as we are fortunate to have Woodhill Sands on our doorstep, but when we do there is always one of my lemon tarts in the fridge. We do eat well at shows but Mum usually does the cooking in the truck.

Where did your horse career start?

I started at pony club around age seven. I progressed through to C+ certificate, games teams and Cambridge show jumping. But I didn't last that long at pony club as I thought I knew much more than the instructors... I did a lot of show hunter in the summer and hunted in the winter.

Tell me a bit about that super mare you rode as a Young Rider, Antipodes?

Antipodes – who was still going strong



CHELEKEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Emma is justifiably proud of the impressive ring decorations at the Waitemata show

at aged 30 – was a mare I took over from Dad when I was 14. I went straight into the Young Rider classes as there was no Junior section back then. It was a bit hairy to start with (I had very little show jumping experience) but we eventually got it together and won a lot of Young Rider classes and had some Grand Prix wins and placings. One of the more memorable wins would have been the National Young Rider Championship back in 2000. She was extremely scopey and an exceptional mover.

Your family has had plenty of success breeding from Antipodes, with Percival Gull, Duplicate, Ditto and Dawn. Out of these lovely homebreds, which has been the most successful?

None of them have had the talent that Antipodes had but all of them have been very useful horses. Percival Gull was a very successful show hunter who I won the Junior Show Hunter of the Year on back in 1999 (he was born when Antipodes was four). Duplicate was retired due to a cardiac issue but she was successful up to 1.35m and was runner-

up in the Amateur Rider Series in 2010. Ditto was sold to Australia 18 months ago having jumped up to 1.35m. Dawn is still a work in progress!

And you have managed to do some breeding yourself, with daughter Molly, aged three and a half. Does she show any early signs of following in your footsteps as a keen equestrian?

She is starting to show interest, but it has taken a while. We have two ponies which Molly and her cousins share. Beauty pulls a cart which the kids love and the other, TomTom, has the patience of a saint. She seems to have all the horses' names down pat and is always keen to make their feeds.

Your husband, Simon, isn't from a horsey background, but I gather he is a keen snowboarder. Obviously he has good balance and is fearless – so when are we going to see him riding at the shows? Simon thinks horse shows are extremely boring and we have no chance of him riding at a show any time soon. I think he has been seen on a horse a grand total

of three times. The deal originally was if I learnt to snowboard he would learn to ride. I kept my part of the bargain!

What do you see yourself doing in five years' time?

Still enjoying running great shows and hopefully not one of those crazy pony mothers I read about in your columns.

H&P

Each month, Grand Prix rider, trainer and mother-of-two Claire Wilson talks to a New Zealand show jumping personality



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The long **HARD** to the top



JULIE HARDING

ROAD

Event rider Jesse Campbell has had his first taste of four-star success, and he's in it for the long haul, as he tells **Julie Harding**

'MAKING it in eventing has been seriously difficult and the hardest part is when things go wrong because you have no support network. It's just you," says Jesse Campbell as he sits in the tackroom at Maizey Manor Farm in Wiltshire, almost 12,000 miles from home in the Waikato.

Jesse, at 6ft 6in tall one of the loftiest event riders on the planet, has just returned from Luhmühlen in Germany, where he finished 16th at his first four-star in hot company aboard his leading light, Kaapachino. Two phases went almost perfectly, and after scoring 36.8pen (75.5%) in the dressage, Jesse was overcome with emotion.

"I saw three 9s go up for the last halt and thought that it may be a sympathy mark, but Erik [Duvander] told me to stay there and watch my score. When it flashed up I burst into tears. It's been such a hard road and Kaapy isn't very talented on the flat."

A clear cross-country round bang on the optimum time was followed by a disappointing four rolled rails in the jumping for a final 16th place; a clear round would have seen him fifth.

However, just competing at four-star level is little short of a miracle for man and horse, as both have suffered a series of setbacks on their journey to the top. Kaapachino required a year off for a tendon injury in 2013. Then, as he was being honed for this year's Badminton, he developed a bacterial infection which meant missing the UK's premier spring four-star.

"With hindsight it was a good thing. Going to Luhmühlen gave us a little more time to prepare," says Jesse, as he checks



A special moment with Kaapachino.

his continually buzzing phone for the latest in a long line of text messages.

But Jesse's own dark problems make Kaapachino's look pale by comparison. He lost his confidence while based at Andrew Nicholson's yard.

"I had always wanted to be the best, but I didn't think that I could do it any more," explains Jesse. "It took until the middle of last year to get my confidence back. I had good people around me, including Erik, who stepped back in to train me, [dressage trainer] Lisa White, who helped me out of the rut, plus, of course, my girlfriend Goose [Leigh]."

There are also his parents – father Craig is a GP and mother Ezra is a former art teacher and potter – who have assisted financially, physically and psychologically.

Eventing, he admits, has not only taken over his own life, but also his mother's. She transported her statuesque son to every show hunter, pony club and eventing competition he ever contested from the age of 11 onwards.

"I've always had a passion for horses. I've no idea where it came from, as no one else is horsey in my family. When I was a kid and we visited mum's friend I got out of my stroller and they found me in the paddock under one of the horses."

Craig phones while we are talking. "Dad, I'm just in a meeting. Can I call you back?" says Jesse, who races through our discussion, mindful of the fact that at noon he must leave for Dublin with Goose (real name Lucy) for a Taylor Swift concert.

// It's been such a hard road and Kaapy isn't very talented on the flat'

Jesse was overwhelmed with his beloved Kaapachino's performance in his first four-star dressage at Luhmühlen, and burst into tears when the 75.5% score went up





JULIE HARDING



LIBBY LAW

Left: catching up with some office work and above with girlfriend Goose (Lucy) Leigh

JESSE'S TOP THREE



Name: **Kaapachino ('Kaapy')**

Age: 12

Height: 16.3hh

Breeding: TB by Kaapstad out of Right Tune. Kaapy once belonged to Sonya Palmer. Jesse was offered him as a catch ride at Puhinui — and they won. "I knew that I had to have him. Mum and Dad helped me." Since then the pair has learned together, their journey taking them to four-star level for the first time this season. "He's as brave as a lion and I love him," says Jesse. "Having Kappy beside me kept me going through the darkest times."

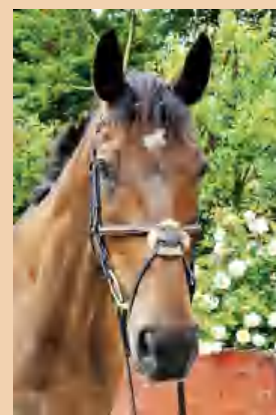


Name: **Amsterdam 21 ('Otto')**

Age: 9

Height: 17hh

Breeding: by Acorado, out of Allez Petite. The attractive grey is being aimed at the Blenheim CCI3* and Jesse believes that he is his best hope of obtaining a ticket to the Rio Olympics. Jesse bought Otto in Germany and he is owned by New Zealand couple Gary and Linda Harding. "He was the last horse I saw on a buying trip. The agent said, 'I think this one will suit you', and he did."



JULIE HARDING

Name: **Cleveland ('Freddy')**

Age: 8

Height: 17hh

Breeding: by Watermill Swatch out of Rielone.

Bred in Holland by a US TB stallion. Recommended to Jesse by British event rider Rodney Powell. "Freddy was in a dealer's yard and I went and tried him. At that point I was told that he had been sold, but I hunted him down and bought him off the lady who had just purchased him," explains Jesse. "He's amazing."



LIBBY LAW

Jesse with Amsterdam 21, who performed well to finish in 13th place in the CIC3* at Luhmühlen, and who may be his ticket to Rio

Jesse grew up in Cambridge, in the centre of the horsey mecca of the Waikato which was also home to Mark Todd, Andrew Nicholson, Vaughn Jefferis and Clarke Johnstone. He aspired to be like Mark and Vaughn.

That ambition continued all the way through his years at St Peter's Cambridge, a private school which awarded him

though, is always on at me to get another skill."

The year that changed Jesse's life was 2009. He spent a few months in the UK training with Mark Todd. On his days off he would watch Andrew Nicholson ride. Jesse returned to New Zealand to build up a team of horses safe in the knowledge that a flight back to the UK was as certain

"Caroline Powell once told me that you should never let an opportunity pass you by and this was a pretty amazing one. In a month or two I had packed up. I knew that I wouldn't be asked twice."

He stayed at Andrew's Marlborough yard for nearly two years, gaining some initially impressive results, such as winning the Tattersalls CCI2* with Kaapachino. But soon the red rosettes all but dried up.

"I learned a lot of life's lessons while I was with Andrew. If I could stick at it then, I knew that I really wanted to be an event rider," says Jesse, who has recently been re-named on the High Performance Accelerator Squad.

When he packed up and headed for Maizey Manor, he didn't even own a dandy brush. He rented just three boxes for his three horses.

What a difference three years makes. Today, as he lives on site in a flat, all of the boxes in one barn are filled with Jesse's horses.

// I had always wanted to be the best, but I didn't think that I could do it any more'

a General Excellence Scholarship, and it stayed with him as he studied at the University of Waikato, until he dropped out of his sports science and marketing course to (of course) follow his dream.

"I'm more practical than academic. If I had my time again I would have chosen a more practical course. My girlfriend,

as night following day. Apart from the eventing scene he liked "how England is a happening place. I don't think I'll ever move back to New Zealand, although I may retire there."

In 2010 an email pinged into his inbox. It was from Andrew Nicholson offering him a job.

6 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT JESSE

1 He once dyed his hair to match Kaapachino's tail, thinking it would earn him better marks in the dressage. It was an unmitigated disaster.

2 He bought a black French Bulldog called Berry for his girlfriend, Goose, but he liked the dog so much that he kept it for himself.

3 He loves visiting London art galleries, and is a big fan of modern art, primarily the American Russian artist Mark Rothko, as well as Wassily Kandinsky, but he also likes Turner's seascapes and Alfred Munnings's equestrian masterpieces. Other hobbies include playing golf (with Tim Price) and reading. He is currently working his way through Bill Browder's political thriller *Red Notice*.



4 He dressed up as Napoleon Dynamite, from the movie of the same name, for James Todd's 21st.

5 He follows a lot of Victoria's Secret models on Instagram.

6 He turned down a professional rugby contract to play in France as a teenager to concentrate on riding.

Another change has seen him take a slight raincheck on buying thoroughbreds.

"It's hard to find a really good one. I had a good four-year-old arrive the other day and I enjoy riding them, but it's really hard to find the ones that will jump clear on the last day," says Jesse, who kick started his career with TBs fresh from the race-track. These included Volitation, whose extraordinary jump prompted Ezra to give him a name that meant 'the ability to fly'.

Tragically, Volitation was killed contesting the NZ Young Rider Champs over a new course at Pukemarama, when the newly-constructed bank gave way under his hooves. It was the first in a long line of setbacks for the now 25-year-old rider.

"I thought I would have nailed it a lot sooner," says Jesse, referring to the interminable road to the sport's pinnacle. "But I believe that I'm good enough. I'm not good enough to do anything else, which is why I have to keep going," he adds. Clearly his mojo has returned.

H&P

JULIE HARDING



BARBARA THOMSON PHOTOGRAPHY

A family affair

Jo Bell interviews Huntsman Harvey Wilson, whose life is centred around hounds, the hunt field and home

As the hunting season draws to a close and hunters are turned out for their annual spell, spare a thought for the huntsman whose work carries on.

For Taupo Huntsman Harvey Wilson, the year-round commitment to his hounds and the hunt is all worth it for the lifestyle it provides to his family.

Harvey's wife, Lisa, says their three daughters, Georgie (11), Libby (9), and Vienna (6), are incredibly lucky as they get to go to work with Dad and he IS around a lot more than with a nine-to-five job.

"Now the girls are older they are often down at the kennels helping Harvey with the hounds and mucking about with the horses."

Coming through the Mahia Hunt 'apprenticeship' Harvey has now been a huntsman for more than 20 years and says it's the thrill of the chase that keeps him interested.

Growing up on a farm in Wairoa, he started hunting with his mother, Marion, with Mahia Hunt, aged about 11.

"It was always something special to go to a hunt on someone's place and to ride around with all your mates."

Harvey says there was a good bunch of people in Mahia who were very enthusiastic about hunting and used to collect a group of kids and their ponies from town and take them to hunts in a big, open-top cattle truck.

"Graham Williamson was the Master

and they would line us all up and get us jumping the spars – it was great!"

Harvey must have showed his flair with the hounds from a young age as he was a regular whip from the age of 14.

It was during his six months at the Taratahi training farm in Masterton that Harvey was offered the huntsman job at Mahia, and he turned up to start work just before his 18th birthday.

"I was lucky to have some good people helping me – Bruce Goldstone, Peter Bennett and John Von Pein all gave me good advice and tips."

For nine years Harvey lived out of his suitcase during the hunt season, as with no kennel base and the large hunt boundary, the Mahia Huntsman moves between

// It was always something special to go to a hunt on someone's place and to ride around with all your mates'

the different hunt wards, being billeted along with his hounds.

When Harvey decided to call it a day on Mahia, he headed to Waipukurau to work on a farm. He joined Dannevirke Hunt and says Barry Beatson, Dannevirke Master, 'cracked the whip' to encourage Harvey to conform to better Hunt etiquette.

Harvey met Lisa hunting with Dannevirke and the couple moved to Taupo in 2001 when he was appointed Taupo Huntsman.

It was interesting time for Harvey in terms of hound management as he was now working with a permanent kennel set-up, and managing a hunt farm.

It didn't take too long before Harvey had the pack hunting his way.

"Hounds aren't like domestic dogs; they have a real pack mentality and you have to be the boss. Their noses really rule their brains. Some can be easily stopped but others are very determined and totally focused on the scent so you have to get to know them."

Harvey likes his hounds to be happy as he says it makes it easier to work with them.

"Our girls play with the pups all the time, dragging them around on the lead. It really de-sensitises them and makes them friendly. I think this is positive as they will come to people and are happy to follow."

Each year Harvey breeds from two or three selected bitches and he says there is quite a lot of discussion amongst huntsman from the different hunts about the breeding side of the sport.

"We will often get a new bitch from another hunt or use someone else's good dog to breed from – we are always trying to improve the bloodlines and get a better hunting hound."

On the hunt field Harvey says his focus is always with the hounds.



Harvey and Lisa's girls enjoy playing with the hound puppies



Harvey and Lisa ride out at Taupo Hunt Week

Harvey's top tips for an aspiring huntsman

There is not a plethora of huntsman jobs available, and the best ones usually don't come up too often. Harvey says an aspiring huntsman needs the following:

- To be able to ride well
- To have good horse power
- To have a good knowledge of hounds
- To realise that some days – no matter what you do – you aren't going to get it right but you still have to carry on and make the best of the day
- To get out to as many different hunts around the country as possible to watch the way different huntsmen work
- To go whipping
- To find a huntsman who will let you help out in the kennels and working the hounds up



It's a special day when the girls ride out with their dad

"I generally switch off from the field but when you've got the bigger fields, like Taupo Hunt Week, I do have to be mindful of them.

"I always go out there to provide the best possible day. Some days it just doesn't happen the way you want it to and this can be difficult, but people still may have had a fantastic day, especially if we have jumped some interesting fences."

Like most hunting people, Harvey is pretty fanatical about the sport and says even if he wasn't a huntsman he would definitely hunt.

"The girls will come out with us now, and Georgie especially will often come and ride in with me which is a good thing to share. They are also getting pretty quick at telling me what I've done wrong!"

In the summer, Lisa and the girls are successful in the showing discipline with a number of National and Horse of the Year titles to their credit. And with three young riders, Harvey has needed to get involved as the lead rein handler for youngest daughter, Vienna.

Outside the hunt season, Harvey works as an agricultural contractor for a local farmer and prepares his young horses.

The hounds have a rest from their busy winter months but they still require daily management and care before the pre-season working up time begins in the New Year, to be ready for another hunt season.

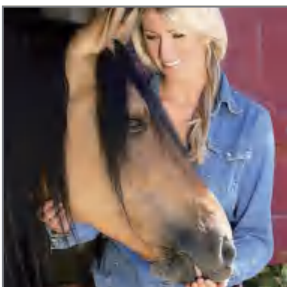
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// Our girls play with the pups all the time, dragging them around on the lead.'



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Harvey in showing mode, looking dapper with youngest daughter Vienna



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Training Masterclass

Show jumper Sean Cubitt helps an event rider and her young warmblood improve the quality of the canter and work on some basic jumping exercises

Words: **Helen Firth**

Images: **Ana Rattray**





Our trainer

Sean Cubitt was born in Ireland and has competed and trained extensively in Europe and Argentina. He runs a training and sales yard in Cambridge with his wife, Grand Prix show jumper Lisa.



Our rider

Devon Grantley-Hogg (17) is a student at ACG Strathallan in Auckland and rides Centauri LA, a five-year-old by Eurosport Centavos. Devon has only owned 'Chez' for a couple of months and this was her first lesson on him with Sean. "We are still getting to know each other and so far I have mainly been focusing on dressage to get all the basics right before we started jumping," she says.



1 Release and reward

Don't get too 'dressage-y'

WATCHING DEVON warm up, Sean cautions her not to get overly 'dressage-y' and restrict her horse too much in front to start (below). He gets Devon to ride some walk-trot transitions and is quick to correct her when she pulls her horse into a frame.

"The first thing you started to do was get him in a headlock," he observes. He tells Devon to vibrate the inside rein until her horse is happily in a soft frame in walk, then release the rein and move up into trot. "When he submits, you soften up into trot and keep your hand nice and soft," he explains. "See – now you don't have 50kg in your hand. A second ago, you were going to have that 50kg for the whole trotting circle." It's not a case of having no contact at all, says Sean, but just making sure you are soft when you need to be.

Sean also reminds Devon not to drill her horse for too long. With young horses, he says, it's important to do a little bit of work and then give them a break; a little bit more work and then another break. "If you keep hammering the same thing,

sometimes you end up going for half an hour without really getting it," he explains. "But it's funny, if you stop and walk for five minutes and then try again, you get it. Sometimes when we get so determined and try too hard the horse gets a bit confused and so do we! With the young ones you have to do little stints."

With Devon's softer hand, Sean is much happier with the way Chez is going. Instead of fighting he's just on the bit and relaxed with his ears pricked, says Sean (above).

"He's actually starting to move better in front – can you see that?" he observes. "His shoulder is able to work now you're not strangling him. You want to encourage him to go forwards first and then work him, rather than strangling him."

After some good, consistent trot work, Sean tells Devon to come back to walk, give her horse a pat, let him stretch his neck and 'be a horse'.

// Everyone tries to manufacture the horses too much and make them go a certain way, but then they never actually learn to go for themselves'





2 **Forward first** Building strength in the canter

MOVING INTO the canter, Sean can see straight away that while Devon has been doing lots of trot work, there hasn't been so much cantering. Chez is quite resistant in the canter, making it difficult for Devon. The answer, says Sean, is to do heaps more canter.

The hardest thing for young horses in the canter is they need to get strong behind before they can really hold the canter, explains Sean. Sean doesn't do a lot of circles or dressage type work to start with his own youngsters, as they are often too weak physically. Instead, he gets into two-point and canters around the arena, until the canter is good.

Sean gets Devon to do exactly this. Almost immediately, the canter is transformed. As soon as Devon stops worrying about where his head is and just rides forward, Chez starts to look much happier and work through from behind (above).

"There now, that wee horse is a lot more settled; it looks a million times better. He's actually working through his back now instead of shutting down on you," says Sean. "That's the canter you're after. And have you had to do any work to get it?"

"No," says Devon.

"So what does that tell you? He wasn't going forward enough," explains Sean. "If you start out riding backwards and fighting with him, he doesn't want to give or go forward because you're hanging on to him."

"Everyone starts to try and collect young horses up and work them too soon, but you've got to get them developed in their body first. You can see this horse is quite high behind and there isn't a lot of muscle. What you were asking him to do needs a lot of power and muscle, which he doesn't have yet. He's too weak to do it, so what does he do? He fights you."

"You want to go easy on him a little bit and get him using that back end much more. I use the whole arena like this for

weeks and weeks with the young ones and then eventually do one nice circle if I can get one. Everybody gets into the circle work straight away and then they think the horse is being horrible, but it's not, they just physically can't do it."

He recommends that Devon canters Chez for a good 20 minutes every day, for five or six minutes at a time, with walk breaks in between.

"I do three laps on the right rein, walk for a lap; three laps on the left rein, walk for a lap. That way I have a system. Eventually I can build it up to four laps of canter, walk for a lap."

Sean on... using your brain

Don't fight. If you fight the horse, you're not going to win. We're never going to be stronger than them, but we can be cleverer. Think of a clever way to get the job done, rather than trying to use power.



// Sometimes when we get so determined and try too hard the horse gets a bit confused and so do we! With the young ones you have to do little stunts'

3 Don't try too hard

The horse jumps the fence, not you!

THE FIRST JUMP of the day is a little trot cross-rail with take-off and landing poles set 3m from the jump (above). The take-off pole gives the horse confidence and helps the stride become consistent, explains Sean. The landing pole prevents the horse from jumping too far out; the horse has to 'finish' the jump and tip behind to get their feet inside the pole, rather than doing a big ski jump.

Sean reminds Devon not to let her lower leg drift back: 'You're going scuba-diving!' he says.

The first couple of times, Devon's line after the fence is 'squiggly-wiggly', says Sean, and he reminds her to ride away from the fence in a straight line and stop. "He dodges left and right...he's actually trying to escape a little bit everywhere, so that's the main reason to be 100% in the middle and keep him straight," explains Sean.



Approaching the cross-rail in canter, Chez is a little headstrong on the way in, and Devon takes a pull. Sean tells her not to worry so much about the distance, but just to let him quietly float over the pole. "There was a tug of war the whole way in," he notes. "You want to get him soft in the canter and stay nice and relaxed. Trust yourself.

"You're trying a little bit too hard to be super-accurate on a horse that's not ready to be trained that way yet. Relax a little bit more. You have to keep the rhythm, soften to the pole and let him jump. He has to teach himself.

"The horse has to learn to do the job. You can't help them. It's them that jump the fences, not you!"

4 Let them kick the bed

Learning from mistakes

THE NEXT exercise is a normal six-stride line and Sean reminds Devon not to get too picky, but to just let her horse canter and jump.

"This is one of those horses who, the more you try and do, the more it's going to fight you. You have to let these ones learn from their mistakes," he explains. "If they run you in deep and hit the fence, it's going to hurt, so they're not going to do it too many times. It's the same as us: if we walk around the edge of the bed and kick it, the next time we're going to walk right around the side of the bed. If they make a mistake and have a fence down, hopefully they're clever enough to try and help themselves and jump it differently.

"Everyone tries to manufacture the horses too much and make them go a certain way, but then they never actually learn to go for themselves. I've had quite a few horses to fix that have been manufactured their whole life and

then all of a sudden something has gone wrong but they've never learned to look after themselves and it makes their life so much harder. You have to train them that if they are a bit off or a bit deep, they have to jump. If they put themselves in that position, they have to figure out how to get out of it."

When Chez gets a bit deep and knocks down a fence, Sean says 'he's just kicked the edge of the bed – hopefully he'll learn from it.' He tells Devon her ride was absolutely perfect and not to change a thing. Sure enough, next time around, Chez jumps carefully (right).

"He was looking for himself and jumped that fantastically," says Sean.



5 **Keep it simple** Adding a stride

SEAN GETS Devon to repeat the line, this time adding a stride, asking for seven strides rather than six. The first time she fails, largely because she was fighting Chez all the way to the fence, says Sean (right).

“You were holding on and pulling, so what did he want to do? Escape. He was trying to get away from you,” says Sean.

He reminds Devon to be cleverer in her approach to problem-solving, and tells her to pull up and halt in the middle of the line. He gets her to repeat this halting exercise a couple of times, until Chez starts to jump into the line and shorten his stride automatically. “You’ve actually put a bit of manners on to him,” says Sean. “If you just kept riding this line the way you were, you’d never get the seven. You have to simplify it and explain to him what you want: that he has to land, shorten and sit on his hocks.”

After halting in the middle a few times, Devon is able to canter down the line in seven strides easily (bottom right). “There you had him waiting and you could soften in the last stride. You’ve learned something and he’s learned something – you have more control without having a tug of war.”



// If you can't see a stride, soften to the fence and let it happen'

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6 **Never pull** Jumping a course

THE LESSON ENDS with Devon jumping a little course. Sean reminds her throughout to fiddle with her fingers if she wants to get Chez back, rather than taking a pull. "If you can't see a stride, soften to the fence and let it happen. Let him jump for you."

The final jump of the day is this wall, and Sean says he would rather see Chez

stop at the fence than run at it. Devon stays relaxed and Chez keeps a rhythm all the way to the fence, jumping it happily (above).

"He's actually brave," notes Sean. "You just have to trust him, trust yourself and you'll be away."

Conclusions

Sean

When Devon gets all the simple bits and pieces right, she'll have a cracker of a horse. He's got good movement, he's careful and scopey.

Devon shouldn't ever fight this horse, but needs to beat him with her brain. I would take him to the track and canter until he just drops his head and flops around the track in an even canter.

I would ease back on the dressage and concentrate on building up his strength. He's the sort of horse who will go against you if you are too hard. Once he starts to drop his head and use his back end and stomach muscles it will make life a lot easier.

Devon

I love Sean's way of teaching as he makes me determined and gets the best out of me. I like how he is constantly seeking perfection. I had to keep doing an exercise until we got it 100% right. Mediocre doesn't cut it with Sean, although he also has a good sense of humour!

Chez has a pretty flash trot and he does that very well, however he is still weak and this shows in his canter. I need to do lots more cantering around, letting Chez find his own natural balance. I also realised I need to be smarter than Chez and out-think him, rather than out-muscle him. I liked the exercise where we jumped the combination and halted between the fences. This was helpful as he started to wait.



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JUMPING CLINIC

with

DALE PEDERSON

Our show hunter guru assesses readers' pictures

WHOEVER TOOK THE FIRST PICTURE captured this horse and rider at truly the perfect moment in the hunt field.

This rider has a very solid foundation for jumping. It is nice to see that someone who still does the sport that show hunter originated from has such a good position and is a model for other riders, whether they are in an arena or out on the field with the hounds.

Yes, this rider has let her leg slip back over the top of this jump, as the entire girth is visible. But the placement of her foot in the stirrup is textbook with the ball of her foot across the iron, and her little toe touching the outside branch. She has very good flexion in her ankles which indicates plenty of weight in her heels. This is the anchor of the foundation that is so important in order to stay on and with your horse over fences.

Her seat is nice and close to the saddle with her hips well behind the pommel. The thrust of her horse's jump is pushing her up out of the tack so she stays with him in the air. She rides with a nice flat back with her eyes up looking for the track or fence ahead.

Her release is wonderful. Even though she has not allowed a lot, she is following her horse over the fence with her lovely automatic release. Notice that the horse is not opening his mouth and the reins are taut but not tight. Her fingers are closed nicely around the reins and she is holding her whip properly. If she were to lower her hands alongside her horse's neck there would be a perfectly straight line from her elbow to the bit.

This horse is jumping this fence well enough. He could be using his shoulder a bit better and get his knees bit closer to his chin, but he is very tight below the knees and is most importantly a safe jumper. The rider has placed this horse at a long distance here and he must use all of his scope to sail across it safely. A lot of push from his hind is needed to do that as well, and I don't think there is going to be a problem as this horse looks very athletic.

He also looks in top condition with plenty of shine to his coat, which tells us that his feeding and worming programmes are working. The rider is dressed very nicely in her traditional hunting attire. Notice how there is no bling on the bridle or shiny buttons on her coat that would distract from the horse. I would like to see more of that in the show hunter ring. It is a nice-looking pair.

SHOT NUMBER TWO this month looks like it could be at a competition of some kind. This rider's position overall is really quite good but there are a few things that I think would help make it better. Her foot is placed nicely in the stirrup but her toe is pointing out a bit too much and her stirrup leather looks as if it may be twisted. Her stirrups look a bit too long as her knee angle is open a bit too much, even for this size jump.

She does have her heels down and her leg is nicely at the girth in almost the perfect position. But because her stirrups are a hole too long her knee has come away from the knee roll of the saddle. Her seat is a bit too far out of the saddle with her hips too high and a little too far forward.

Her back is nice and flat and she looks to have her eyes up.



DAVID MOFFETT



She is demonstrating an almost perfect automatic release with her hands low alongside her horse's neck and a lovely straight line from elbow to bit. She looks to be somewhat of a novice rider, but whoever is teaching her has done a lovely job. She has the basics and the right instincts over this fence. She has allowed enough, following her horse's jump with her upper body and is light on his back.

Shortening her stirrups will help lower her seat just enough and that in turn will allow her to ride a little taller. She has the release we all hope to have at the top of our game.

This horse is not jumping this tiny oxer very well – his knees are headed in the wrong direction although he is nice and tight below them. However, I would not judge his jumping ability from this picture. Notice how close he has been placed to the fence. His back feet are so close to the base that I am surprised he is jumping this well.

A horse needs room to rock back and jump across the fence using his shoulder, head and neck. This horse is so crowded in front of the jump that he has done all he can to jump it clean. Given a couple of metres more for take-off, he may be able to jump it in lovely form. From the way he is built, I see no reason why not.

This rider has gone to plenty of trouble to present herself well. The horse looks to have a bit of a dull coat, but that could be the time of year.

I am not a big fan of the converter used on the bit, as it does not give the rider the ability to use both the snaffle and the Pelham rein separately, but I am sure it is right for this pair.



WE DON'T SEE THAT MANY palominos in the world of show jumping; this one would not get lost in a crowd, that's for sure!

This young lady has a lovely lower leg with the toe of her boots almost perfectly in line with the front of the girth. She is making very good use of her long legs, as she has contact with her horse from her inner thigh right down to her heels, which are nicely down to absorb the shock of her weight on landing.

I would like to see her ride a little taller with her upper body. She has a little roundness to her lower back. If she were to lower her seat slightly, at the same time opening her hip angle and bringing her shoulders back a bit, it would make a world of difference. Then she would need to bring her release back closer to her horse's withers and not so far up his neck.

In order to do all that, she may need to lengthen her stirrups half a hole. Having a tall, slender frame like this rider has is a blessing and should be used to full advantage. Always ride as tall as you can. Like all four riders this month she has a great foundation for riding horses over hurdles, and that is wonderful.

This horse's jump looks safe enough at this level but the form being shown here is poor. His knees are pointing in the wrong direction and it looks as if this very accurate rider placed him at a good enough distance. Below the knees he is trying hard; he is just not a really tidy jumper. This does not mean that he could not jump a big track. His expression is great with ears up and he looks game enough.

This is a nice-looking couple, turned out very well for a lesson, a clinic or pony club. The horse seems to be very fit with a lovely

well cared-for coat. I like the saddle pad arrangement to make sure that his back is protected. It's a cool-looking couple.

OUR FOURTH PICTURE is a dandy. This rider has good basics and a solid foundation built on the flat; whether you are riding Category A ponies or 1.50m jumpers, you need that solid foundation of flat-work in order to succeed.

This young lady has a very good position. At first glance you can see that she has the angles needed to ride a horse over a fence without interfering. Her leg has slipped back over the top of this little log fence, but she has plenty of weight in her heels with proper placement of her foot in the stirrup. I like the fact that her knee is firmly in the knee roll of the saddle. Her seat is close to the saddle with her hips well behind the pommel. Her back is flat and she rides with eyes up looking for the next jump. You should always have a focus point by the time you are at the base of a jump so that you create a natural track to the next obstacle or turn.

I very much like the release she is using: the crest release. We teach this when people are learning to jump – for a few reasons, but mostly to help a rider hold position in the air and not fall back or get left behind the motion.

What I like most about this rider is her tall back. She is not lying down on her horse's neck or using a false release by bending forward and over-releasing with her upper body too low. She has allowed just enough to keep control and is not throwing the reins away. She needs to work on getting her leg a little closer to the girth, but other than that I like her position very much.

This cute little chunky horse is not really jumping here so we can't be too hard on his form. Over a bigger fence we would say that he is loose with his front end. Here he is merely cantering over this little pile of logs and doing it very safely, which is the most important thing.

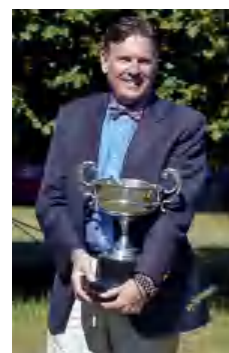
This pair is turned out nicely enough for a casual lesson or even pony club. For the show ring I would like to see a pair of dark gloves and her hair up in her helmet or well contained just behind it.

The horse seems nicely looked after with a shine to his coat and a well-groomed tail.

H&P

Dale Pederson is a leading US rider, trainer and judge who regularly visits New Zealand to hold clinics and judge show hunter and equitation classes at HOY. Dale has ridden and trained hunters and jumpers professionally for 25 years, producing many that have gone on to national acclaim.

To be included in this column, send a clear, in-focus, side-view, original photograph (no computer print-outs or colour photocopies) showing all of you and your horse, to Jumping Clinic, NZ Horse & Pony, PO Box 6341, Wellesley Street, Auckland 1141 with a self-addressed envelope if you'd like it returned. You can email photographs to editor@horse-pony.co.nz but images should be minimum 300kb jpegs. Please include copyright details and written consent of the subject.



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Bad light

I HAVE BEEN a regular reader of *NZ Horse & Pony* for over 30 years and enjoy your format and varied articles. I would like to respond to the chiropractic article of the July issue, however, as I feel it sheds a bit of a bad light on equine bodyworkers in general.

Sadly, yes, there some unskilled manipulative therapy workers loose in NZ, but regulating the industry would do more harm than good as there are dozens of well trained and qualified "do no harm" technique bodyworkers practising all forms of soft tissue therapy, who would not qualify under the strict rules of vet-only practitioner (as in some US states), yet do so much good for many sporthorses in NZ.

I have been a practitioner for 13 years and have trained both here and overseas in a range of methods. I am also a tutor for the Equine Touch programme which is highly controlled and taught in more than 20 countries throughout the world as a recognised bodywork modality.

The founder of Equine Touch is a vet, Dr Ivana Ruddock, and she travels the world much of the year teaching bodywork skills.

One of my equine clients was the best performed of our endurance team at the 2014 WEG, Chris King's Northwinds Apollo, and some of my working pupils now operate successful professional equine therapy businesses in their own countries.

Vets don't generally have time to practise bodywork; most are more than happy to have a good therapist available to support clients' horses and I get many veterinary referrals.

I think a minimum standards accreditation is a helpful certification for clients to have assurance that their therapist is



EQUINE CHIROPRACTICS
— cure or quackery?

Would you use an equine chiropractor? Here's what you should know before you consider getting anyone to work on your horse's spine, by Helen Firth

What does it mean?
Chiropractic
Chiropractic is a manual therapy that focuses on the manipulation of the spine and nervous system, to improve the body's ability to heal itself. It is based on the premise that the body has an innate ability to heal itself, and that the spine is the central pillar of the body. Chiropractors believe that misalignments in the spine can cause health problems, and they use manual adjustments to correct these misalignments.

Outsiders
Chiropractic is often viewed with skepticism by the medical community, as it is not a science-based profession. However, many people who have tried chiropractic report feeling better, and some studies have shown that it can be effective for certain conditions.

Equine chiropractic
Equine chiropractic is a branch of chiropractic that focuses on the manipulation of a horse's spine. It is used to treat a variety of conditions, including muscle pain, joint stiffness, and lameness. Some people believe that equine chiropractic can improve a horse's performance, while others believe it is a waste of money.

Is it safe?
Chiropractic adjustments are generally considered safe when performed by a qualified practitioner. However, there are some risks, such as injury to the spine or other parts of the body. It is important to choose a practitioner who is experienced and has a good reputation.

Is it worth it?
This is a question that many people ask. The answer depends on the individual horse and the condition being treated. Some horses respond well to chiropractic, while others do not. It is important to try it and see if it works for your horse.

Conclusion
Equine chiropractic is a controversial topic. While some people believe it is a valuable tool for treating horses, others believe it is a quackery. It is important to do your research and choose a practitioner carefully.

qualified and proficient; however, you will find that word-of-mouth is the way people find a therapist to treat their horses.

I totally agree that allowing brute force and mallets into therapy work is unacceptable and that horse owners should be made aware that the best therapists will use very little force and there is minimal discomfort for the horse in any of the accepted modalities. My concern with the article is that it will make people shy of using a good sports massage therapist or other soft tissue bodyworker, and these people have the ability to ease a lot of muscular discomfort and correct postural imbalances in horses.

The useless practitioners won't get business if they aren't skillful or professional, but the good ones do so much for the sporthorses in NZ that we should be encouraging them, their professional training and clients to use them.

Janice Clyma, Animal Therapies Unlimited, Hanmer Springs

SADLY, THERE ARE some thieving rogues amongst us. My friend and I had our saddles stolen a while ago. They had to be stolen by one of our equestrian community... as who else would need saddles? Just in case you come across one that might be hot, one was a 17.5 Barnsby and one was a 17.5 Phoenix, and they were stolen from one of the tack rooms at the Waikato Equestrian Centre.

It seemed to have been an opportunistic snatch by someone who knew what they were after and who used our relaxed and trusting approach on a sunny, early afternoon autumn Monday, when there was a two-minute opportunity to conduct this crime

while we put our horses away... but left the door unlocked.

Security consciousness is in overdrive now, so thieves beware – we are watching out for you.

Saddles are so personal as well... fitted for horse and person, specific to taste and comfort. They're as personal and individual as choice in underwear. And nicking them is like someone being a knicker thief... leaving one feeling the personal affront and distress of personal invasion. Then there are the hassles and annoyance re the police reports and insurance claims, and the stress and expense of finding that perfect saddle solution to replace the one taken.

But I am also writing in part to acknowledge the support of the friends who helped us out – loaning us saddles, sleuthing on the Facebook for-sale sites that I, a non-Facebook member (a Luddite by choice), would never access – to hunt for our lost items in case someone is off-loading using these sites.

I want to acknowledge the awesome community who are supportive and generous and compassionate in our occasional hours of need.

Cate Anderson
Hamilton

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One in a million

This month's winner is **Harry the Kid**, who was nominated by Eljay Anderson of New Plymouth

HARRY THE KID was a little horse with the hugest heart, biggest personality, quirkiest nature and one-of-a-kind looks.

He was my first hack and proper competition horse; nothing with him came easy which is why he taught me so much – I had to get things right or he wouldn't give it his all.

He could never jump the moon but was almost unbeatable in the 1m show jumping classes – we took home countless numbers of ribbons from those and show hunter.

He had a jumping technique to die for and knew the difference between hunter and show jumps.

Although we went through a lot of down times I could not have asked for a more awesome horse and I am so honoured to have been given the chance to own him for the last 10 years.

The very hard decision to have him put down due to a great deal of vision loss and sore joints was recently made, but I know he was ready and deserved to be set free to run with no pain.



Thank you for teaching me things no human ever could, and for all the times you listened and guarded my secrets; thank you for helping me fly and for showing me hard work and commitment pay off; thank you for being my happy place on a bad day and for teaching me patience and perfection; most of all, thank you for being my horse and best friend. So very proud of everything and anything you did, rest easy my gorgeous boy.

We'd love to hear from you! Share your thoughts to: Letters, NZ Horse & Pony, PO Box 6341 Wellesley St, Auckland 1141 or email editor@horse-pony.co.nz. Or you can visit us on Facebook, or on Twitter @NZHorseandPony



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13 STORES NATIONWIDE

Well qualified

FOLLOWING YOUR article on chiropractic.... People, as was said in the article, please do check a therapist's qualifications. There is no governing body to regulate who is allowed to treat your animal, with the exception of vets, with the Vet board.

Good on Fiona Mead for again highlighting the importance of qualified practitioners (I say again, as I highlighted the importance of having someone qualified when *H&P* did an article on my practice several years ago now).

As an example, I studied for five years as a human chiropractor, and a year doing human sports therapy, and am registered with the General Chiropractic Council (UK). I studied a further two years to gain my postgraduate Diploma Animal Chiropractic (Australian Veterinary Chiropractic Association) – this course was open to qualified vets, chiros or osteos – so a fabulous combination of professions.

This was followed by another two years to complete my postgraduate Health Sciences (musculoskeletal management).

I have been in practice for over 13 years.

Fenella Grigsby, via Facebook



EYEWITNESS IMAGES

Great future

I'M VERY PROUD of my beautiful horse, Astek Guardsman (pictured above), who won the NZ Young Event Horse at Taupo 3DE. This was a fantastic finale for his young horse education, and shows promise for our great eventing future!

I was fortunate enough to get the ride on 'Gym' through the Horse of a Lifetime promotion run by Astek Stud, which featured in *NZ Horse & Pony* magazine back in July 2012. Winning the YEH was particularly special because it adds another chapter to our story.

I have produced Gym from the age of two and a half, with the help of my fantastic trainers, the very best in New Zealand. They do an outstanding job of sharing their knowledge, steering us in the right direction and keeping us on our toes!

A result like this only happens from a truly wonderful team supporting us.

Thanks for the unwavering support from Sue Fowler of Astek Stud, who is always there for me. She has played such a huge role in what can only be described as a 'horse of a lifetime' opportunity. Thank you to my wonderful, supportive family, my farrier Gareth Quarterman who has generously sponsored Gymy this past season, our horse physio extraordinaire Claire McGowen, the rider physio team at Equipoise, and coaches Donna Smith, Tracy Smith and Jaime Campbell.

Gymy will have a couple of weeks off over winter, but I am excited to keep training in preparation to move up to one-star level in the spring. I am really looking forward to his 6yo season, with a much stronger and more educated horse! I am aiming to be back at Taupo 3DE next year competing in the CCI* class.

Chanel Campbell, Auckland

Happy winner

MANY THANKS for the gorgeous Weatherbeeta cover which I won in the subscribers' monthly draw.

It looks superb, and there is going to be a very cosy happy horse wearing it soon.

I'm rather busy just now preparing for the Pony Club Conference this coming weekend; if this cold weather continues I'm thinking about wearing it myself at Feilding!

Jennifer Howard, Cust

Toxic waste

HORSE OWNERS who are experiencing a wide range of inexplicable health problems with their horses, and who live in an area using fluoride in their drinking water, should go to YouTube and watch the documentary called "poisoned horses."

It shows the effects that fluoride has on our precious horses, and is very frightening, as they drink a lot more water than we do. There is a push at the moment to fluoridate all our drinking water in New Zealand, so please watch and get proactive to stop them putting toxic waste in our water!

Mary-ann Carr, Nelson





HAVE YOUR SAY

We asked you to share your tips and tricks for surviving winter's darkest weeks. Here's what you had to say...

DI SCOTT If we're fed up with it I am pretty sure my horses are too, so I give them treats over the winter: vegetable clippings hidden in their feed buckets. The expression on their faces and their eyes lighting up with enjoyment is well worth standing there in the cold for. They love brussel sprouts!

KYM RALSTON Lots of warm clothes, and thinking to myself whilst mucking out in the cold, dark and wet that not having a horse would be even worse!

JODIE THORNE Put the slow cooker on in the morning so after you've sorted your horses or ridden with all your winter layers on, a lovely warm dinner is waiting and ready for you when you get home! 😊

BELINDA RODRIGUEZ Mid-week rides on a deserted beach, quick ground training on the days that you'd rather be inside, and just riding a grubby horse bareback or over the horse's cover – making it fun.

SUZ BREMNER Sometimes the hardest part of riding at this time of year is the motivation to actually do it in the cold, rain, etc. but I always find once I'm out riding the endorphins kick in and it's great. My advice to myself mainly – less thinking and more action!

SARAH FLOYD My quad bike & quad trailer are the keys to my success... with 7 show horses to hard feed & hay before school at 6.30am & after work at 5pm. With little or no daylight, my quad makes my job so much quicker & safer! Good old Honda, couldn't do it without YOU.

SARAH PIPER I work evenings and weekends, and as hard as it can be not getting home from work until 1am or later some nights, having the warmest and lightest times of the day for ponies certainly makes up for it! Otherwise, warm clothes and always utilising good weather for hacking as opposed to arena work.

KATE REDDOCK Having someone to ride with – it's not so bad schooling at 7 pm when there is someone else doing the same thing. Great way to keep motivated.

HANNAH COMRIE A few harden-up pills!

SARAH SMALL A shot of vodka before walking out the front door feeling like the Michelin man in double layers. Head torch & great gumboots.



RACHEL WISE A sprinkle of cayenne pepper in the toes of your socks. Really! It makes your toes warm.

CHRISTEN LANE Wine and chocolate gets me through.

JULIA LATHAM My wonderful husband who mucks out the stables each morning for me in the winter.

RACHEL WISE A neck-to-ankles warm coat (with my woolly hat in one pocket and my scarf in the other, ready to put on)... goes on over my pyjamas and dressing gown in the morning, so I can buzz out and do morning feeds without having to get changed and chilly! No hay gets in either 😊! Then straight inside into a warm shower... bliss.



SHIANN READ-MILLS I just think about how all the hard work will pay off when my horse is fit and healthy when the long days come around again. And the best thing is, when my horse is happy I am happy 😊

KYLA DIMMOCK I mix up a few days' feeds in advance so that I spend less time sorting food and more time riding. When I had 3-4 horses in the winter I would mix up a week's worth, put them in plastic bags and then into a sealed container with each horse's name on the lid. If someone else had to feed

for me they could see which container belonged to each horse and only needed to add water before feeding out!

NIKI SINDEN-WHITE The sound of your equine friend calling out to you when they see, or hear you coming, and then the gentle nicker as you get closer, makes every trip worthwhile. It's nice to give back to them as they give us so much.

AYLEY HOOK Remember back to when you were a child and would have done ANYTHING for a pony.

TONI HANNAH Many, many layers of warm thermals, polar fleece headband, lights on the shed that shine out into the paddocks, big woolly socks, a boiled kettle for hot feeds and a bloody big glass of mulled wine when I get back inside at night.

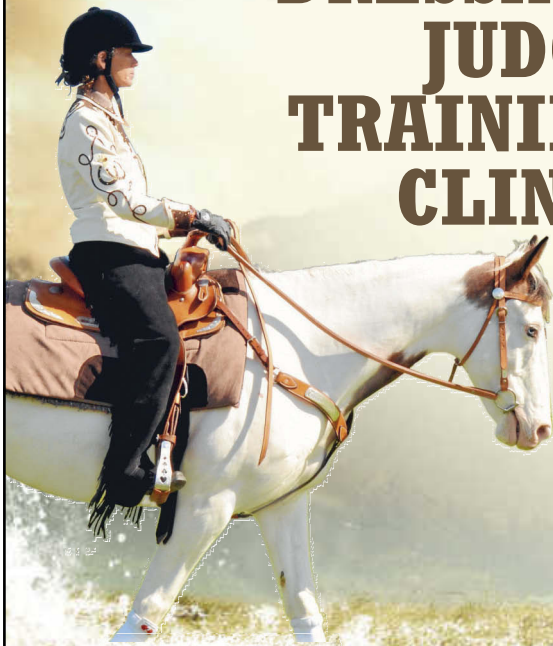
😊 Oh, and a sense of humour for those times when I have to crack ice and pull it out of the troughs with my bare hands in -6° temperatures...





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WESTERN DRESSAGE JUDGE TRAINING CLINIC



International judge, Wayne Hipsley will be conducting the first stage of a three stage programme to educate and licence judges for scoring Western Dressage in New Zealand.

New to New Zealand, Western Dressage is a melding of Classical Dressage techniques from the master European horsemen that

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Stage 1 : Judges Introduction Education Program and Training for Western Dressage

Agenda: The Western Dressage structure, WDANZ ridden test levels, rules and regulations, gaits and manoeuvres, score live tests with discussion.

Cost: \$350 per participant

Dates: October 24th – 26th 2015

Location: Welcome Bay RDA Centre, Tauranga

For further information contact secretary

Eileen Oswald

Ph 07 304 9882 | email: wbdressage@yahoo.co.nz

Stage 2 : Participate as an apprentice judge

Stage 3 : Judge licensing seminar - written and practical test to gain certification as a licensed WDANZ judge.

While in New Zealand, Wayne will be available to conduct training clinics and offer private lessons for organisations and individuals; contact Eileen for information.



WAYNE G HIPSEY

BSc, MSc

Lexington, Kentucky
Professional horseman,
multi-licensed judge,
university professor, author,
equine legal advisor, breed
society administrator and
licensed judge, equine
consultant, clinician,
coach and trainer.



Wayne Hipsley will be supporting the Western Dressage Association of New Zealand at Equidays.



Western-Dressage-Association-of-New-Zealand
www.westerndressage.co.nz

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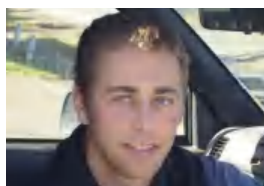
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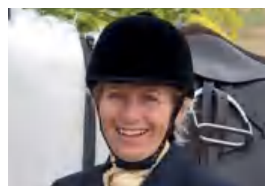
OUR EXPERT PANEL



VET

Dr Dave van Zwanenberg

BVetMed (Hons) MRCVS
Dave graduated from London University and spent three years working in Devon. In 2008 he moved to Kumeu Veterinary Services (now rebranded as Vets North) and is one of the practice's directors.

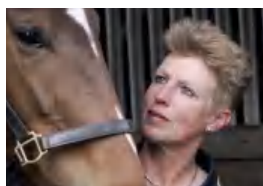


NUTRITIONIST

Dr Lucy Waldron

PhD

Lucy has a doctorate in animal nutrition and is a registered nutritionist. She works as an independent nutrition consultant in New Zealand, Europe and Asia.



TRAINER

Cheski Brown

Cheski is the principal of Abberry Equine. She says, "I have had the pleasure of meeting thousands of horses, and I'm fascinated with the subject of how to allow them to be happy."



HERBALIST

James Hart

MNZAMH, Dip Herb Med

James is a professional member of the New Zealand Association of Medical Herbalists specialising in the treatment of animals, especially horses, dairy cows and goats. He is principal of James Hart Equiceuticals.



TRAINER

Neil Davies

Neil Davies began training horses full-time in 1977. Over the next 15 years, he started more than 1000 horses under saddle and has trained thousands of so-called 'problem' horses. Neil's training videos have sold worldwide and he has conducted clinics and demonstrations in Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

Send your questions to: editor@horse-pony.co.nz with Ask the Experts in the subject line, or post to NZ Horse & Pony, PO Box 6341, Wellesley St, Auckland 1141

Hear, hear

Q: Do horses suffer age-related hearing loss as humans and dogs do? My horse is 27 and he doesn't seem to respond to my voice in the paddock the way he used to. How can you test for deafness in horses?

Sally, Nelson

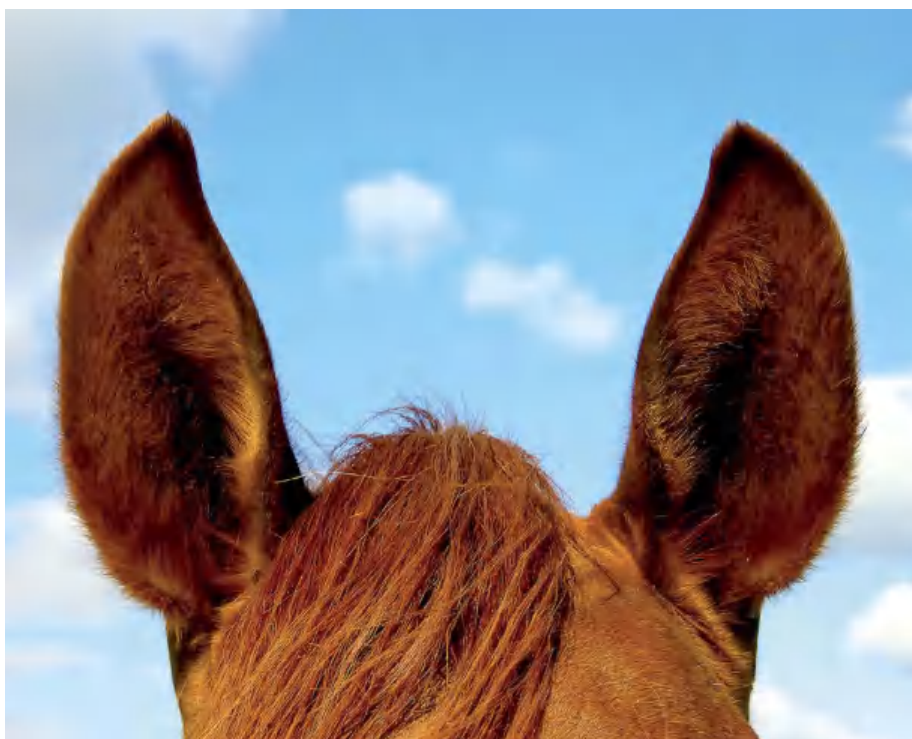
Vet Dave replies:

With the increasing ability we have to care for horses in old age, there are more and more reaching their senior years. Equine seniors are just as susceptible to parts of them wearing out as we humans are, so it is entirely possible that your horse may be losing his hearing as he gets older.

But testing for deafness is exceptionally difficult in horses. Gross tests such as ear movements to loud noises are possible; however, the more subtle tests to detect the different stages of hearing loss are all but impossible in horses.

Owners tend to be much more sensitive to changes in their horse's behaviour over time than a vet seeing the horse at several one-off examinations over the same timescale. So, I would suggest that if you have noticed this change then your suspicion is most likely to be true – however, I would have no real clinical way of demonstrating this to you.

Of more importance would be



SHUTTERSTOCK

considering what this means for your boy. If it is just a small amount of hearing loss, then he is likely to cope extremely well with no real management changes. If he loses a large amount of his hearing, he will become more reliant on his sight to inform him of any potential threats. This reliance on sight means that to avoid startling him, you should approach him so that he can see you before you touch him. It may also mean that if you are still riding him you will have to become more aware of visual stimuli which he may be more reactive to – the flip side to this is that you can start to ignore noises that he would have previously reacted to.

// Testing for deafness is exceptionally difficult in horses'

Fluoride overload

Q: Can you tell me about the effects of horses drinking fluoridated water? I know that most horses in New Zealand probably drink rain water or bore water, but those who live in more urban areas on town catchment probably consume a lot of fluoride. I believe that overseas research has shown it to be a cause of a number of serious health problems.

Interested in your experts' opinions.
MB, South Island

Vet Dave replies:

There are no peer-reviewed studies involving fluoride and toxicity in horses. The few case studies and reports that are available have not been published in peer-reviewed journals, so must be considered as anecdotal evidence.

However, taking from the human literature, at low levels, fluoride is suggested to be well tolerated in the diet, improving dental health and strengthening bones. High levels of fluoride in the diet causes staining on the enamel of teeth and brittle bones.

If fluoride toxicity was seen in horses at a lower level than that which causes acute death, then these would be the clinical signs that would be expected.

Although the horse and human biological systems are different, one would expect at a cellular level they would both use fluoride for the same purpose and in the same metabolic processes, and hence present in a similar fashion clinically. In New Zealand, there have been no reports of horses presenting like this to vets.

I have a practice based in and around Auckland, so would expect a higher density of horses drinking town supply water than many other areas of the country. If there was an issue with fluoride toxicity in horses then my practice should be the sharp end of the wedge for cases – but we are not seeing them.

The lack of any evidence of fluoride toxicity reported in the literature – along with the absence of any clinical cases, and the large number of horses worldwide who drink fluoride water – would collectively suggest that the risk is minimal at worst, and most likely of no clinical significance.

Nutritionist Lucy replies:

Hi there. Fluoride (F) is added to town water to help prevent human dental decay – although I doubt anyone has checked these benefits in animals! Studies have shown there may be problems with bone formation and problems in healing broken bones due to excess consumption of F. Most of the problems reported in scientific literature in horses reflects this – with high levels of F intake causing bone (thickened or crooked) and hoof problems, including obvious deformities.

Symptoms take time to appear – usually a couple of years – and are dependent on the level of intake (over 500 parts per million in water from various published cases). Sometimes colic has been reported in association with F in drinking water, and indeed there are cases of stomach ulcers and gut problems in humans – but there have not been any proper scientific studies on this in horses. There may be a link to reduced hormone production, causing issues with fertility and foetal growth, although this has yet to be formally recognised as an issue of F toxicity.

High F intakes in horses may be manifested as skin lesions, although this is in dispute between various researchers. So, in summary, there are reports of problems due to F toxicity in horses, but this is highly dependent upon the levels in the water and the length of exposure time. Local councils are responsible for making decisions regarding putting fluoride into drinking water – and they should be able to tell you how much

// There are reports of problems due to fluoride toxicity in horses, but this is highly dependent upon the levels in the water and the length of exposure time'

is being used in your area so you can estimate what the possible risks may be.

F is also present naturally in ground water – and these levels should be taken into account before additional F is added at treatment plants to ensure toxic levels are not reached, which is the case in certain parts of the USA, where most of the problems in horses have been reported.



DREAMSTIME



Left-over hay

Q: I purchased a lot of hay over the summer of 2013-14 and didn't get through it all. I have the bales stored out of the weather and direct sunlight. At what point in time should I consider the quality to be too nutritionally degraded to feed to my horses? It doesn't smell mouldy or musty – but it doesn't have that 'fresh hay' smell either.

VM, Taupo

Nutritionist Lucy replies:

Your storage of forage sounds fine – especially keeping it out of sunlight which can degrade the nutrients in hay.

Hay stabilises nutritionally (if well-kept) a month or so after cutting and baling. The drying process will mean that certain nutrients are lost – eg. protein and vitamin levels. A good guide is that the more yellow the hay, the fewer sensitive vitamins remain, especially vitamin E.

Changes over time in hay may be due to several factors. If the pasture was mainly low-fibre rye and clover at hay-making time, then it will be

susceptible to leaf shatter which is when the dehydrated lush growth falls apart, leaving high levels of dustiness. Hence lush pasture hays need to be used up within 12 months or sooner from when they were made. If you can access high-fibre hays, then these have better longevity as they hold together a lot better in the bale.

Most hays will lose their fresh smell after six months or so – but they should still smell pleasant, and not be dusty or mouldy when the bale is broken open, so sounds like your hay is fine to use.



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SHUTTERSTOCK

Pig phobia

Q: I have a question for your trainers in relation to an issue that we have with my daughter's pony and our pigs.

When we first got the pony she spent the best part of the time cavorting about the paddock when she saw the pigs. When in the paddock the other horses ignored the behaviour and I now notice that the pony ignores the pigs on the other side of the fence. Or at least grazes as far away from them as possible.

However, when it comes to taking her to and from the paddock we have to go through a paddock with the older pigs, who don't rush up and really aren't interested in anything other than resting or eating as we go through.

At the point of walking out the gate through this paddock the pony becomes highly alert and aware. She had become virtually impossible to lead, doing little rears and trying to take flight and bolt. I try to keep my energy low so as not to heighten her anxiety. I have tried talking to her, but realise this only reassures her and indirectly supports her behaviour. I've tried ignoring the behaviour but it doesn't work. I have tried leading her backwards and forwards past the pigs

when I'm in her paddock to try and help when we leave the paddock, but without success.

We only have a small place, so it's not possible for horses and pigs not to come in contact. I just want to fix the problem and don't really know the best way to go about it. I've been told it will improve with time, but the obverse seems to be true as it's getting worse.

Moirā, Wairarapa

Trainer Neil replies:

Your question raises some important issues about well-established myths in the horse world. These myths seem perfectly logical from a human point of view. Unfortunately, horses don't think like humans, they think like horses.

Myth #1. It's often said that horses are prey animals and it's natural for them to be frightened of predators. The truth is that horses can't work out which animals are predators and which aren't, so they take fright first and think later.

Myth busted: pigs aren't predators, yet lots of horses are frightened of pigs.

Myth #2. The more you expose a horse to something he's frightened of, the less

frightened he'll be. This obviously isn't working for you. The more your pony is exposed to the pigs, the worse she gets. Frequent exposure to the pigs doesn't lessen her reaction.

Myth busted: the idea that you must get horses 'used to' things that worry them by repeated exposure is flawed.

Myth #3. Your horse looks to you as his leader and will copy your behaviour.

Myth busted: you said that you 'keep your energy low' but your pony takes no notice and tries to 'take flight and bolt'. In other words, she doesn't copy you and she takes no notice of your mood. And that's the truth. Horses aren't mimics and they don't copy our behaviour.

Myth #4. Talking to a horse calms him.

Myth busted: if you think about it, why should the sound of a human voice calm a horse? Horses don't communicate by talking. If you talk every time your horse is worried or upset, he'll learn to relate your voice to stressful situations. You'll teach your horse that every time you speak in a 'calming voice' he should expect a drama.

You and I know that pigs are nothing to worry about. The fact that your pony

worries about pigs doesn't really matter. It may be pigs today and cows tomorrow or a log lying on the ground or a car or a hundred other things that your pony decides she 'doesn't like'.

You don't have to get your pony 'used to' pigs. Instead, you must make what you want to do more important to your pony than pigs, cows, logs or anything else. All you want to do is lead your pony through the paddock. Your pony must concentrate on leading as you ask. At the moment, you're both concentrating on the pigs.

You must go back to basics and teach your pony that the most important thing is to do as you ask. Start in a small area, away from the pigs or any other distractions. Make sure that you can control your pony where everything is easy. Don't confront her with frightening situations. Get control without distractions.

When you feel you have control in the small area, lead your pony outside. Find some obstacles to step her over. Always start with easy tasks and build up gradually. After a week or so, when you feel you have better control, lead her past the pigs. Concentrate on making your pony move exactly where you want, at the exact speed you want. One step off line or one step faster is one step too many. If she tries to rear or bolt, pull her around in a small circle.

I understand that your pony doesn't like pigs but that doesn't give her an excuse to do as she pleases. What you want to do must always be the most important thing.

Trainer Cheski replies:

Hi Moira. The first step to fixing your problem lies in your understanding that it's absolutely natural for horses to be afraid of pigs.

The reason is that horses instinctively know that pigs are omnivores and equine genetic inheritance information says they CAN and in some circumstances, WILL attack horses.

Don't know about you, but I am terrified of spiders. I know my fear is innate and not learned because I've

NEVER had a run-in with a spider. However, my hearts starts to pound out of my chest at the sight of one near me.

So, the visual systems of equines, humans and many other species have retained 'ancestral mechanisms' dedicated to the quick detection of immediate and specific threats that have persisted throughout evolution.

Strongly instilled instinct is hard to break. It is a hard-wired fact of nature. An individual that 'freaks out' at the sight of a species that genetic inheritance information tells them to be wary of, does not have a behavioural problem.

I identify with your daughter's pony. I'd come out in a cold sweat if I was made to walk from A to B through a room of big spiders. Would I get better if MADE to live with the spiders? NO!

// Go back to basics and teach your pony that the most important thing is to do as you ask...'

My heart is racing at the thought!

What if the terrifying creatures were locked up so that I couldn't see them? I might be able to cope with this if a person I trusted assured me that the spiders would not escape.

So Moira, I strongly recommend that you do ALL you can to erect a visually substantial barrier around the pigs so your daughter's pony can't see the potentially deadly attackers when she has to go in and out of the paddock gate.

To help me come up with ideas to solve equine problems, I continually remind myself that I'm an animal too. I do my best to put myself in equine shoes to understand what might be the seedling root of concern, irritation, frustration or fear.

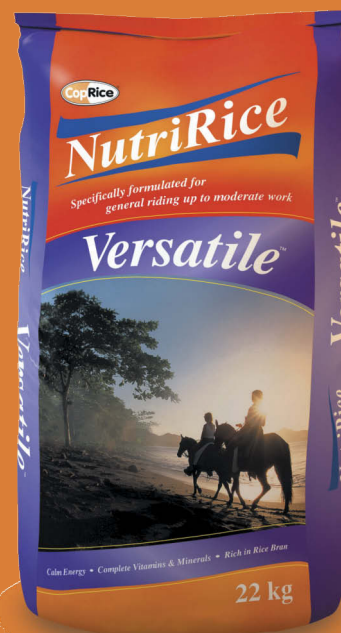
This approach has been very helpful for me and the reward I've had from seeing the way the horses soften and relax in their responses has been emotionally priceless.

It's what makes me get out of bed every morning!



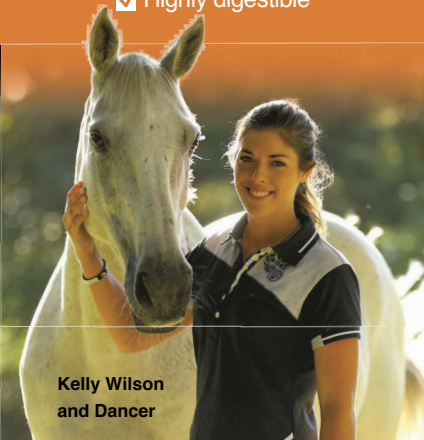
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Stop, drop and roll

Q: My 16-year-old thoroughbred has recently started to drop and roll every time I ride him in the arena. He is sound and as far as I can tell, in good health. What on earth could be causing this and what can I do about it? The only other time I've heard of this is in naughty little ponies with wee children.

Name withheld, Bay of Plenty

Trainer Neil replies

An interesting question that raises a few issues.

If your horse only drops and rolls in the arena and doesn't try to roll out in the paddock or anywhere else, it indicates that he just wants to have a roll

and a scratch in the sand – especially if he is stabled and rugged all the time.

You could try letting him free in the arena before you ride him to let him have his roll. Give him a quarter of an hour or so on his own, to do whatever he pleases.

If your horse does want to stop and roll when you ride him, that's bad luck for him. You mustn't let your horse stop and roll any time that he chooses. Imagine if you were halfway through a dressage test and your horse decided he'd rather stop and roll than complete the test.

Whenever you ride, you must ask yourself who makes the decisions. Is it

you or your horse? Immediately you feel your horse slow down or even think about rolling, you must do something about it. Kick him on and drive him forward. Your horse should be too busy doing as you ask to even think about stopping and rolling. It's always up to the rider to take control and not allow the horse to roll.

But when a horse is subjected to extreme pressure without understanding what's wanted, they can become totally confused and stressed. When a rider keeps pushing on with whip and spur, asking for more and more, I've seen horses so confused and stressed that they freeze up and stop responding altogether.



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// Your horse should be too busy doing as you ask to even think about stopping and rolling'

If the rider keeps hitting and kicking, the horse will shut down completely, stop responding and lie down in a heap.

This happens only in extreme circumstances and I very much doubt whether it relates to your horse. I'm sure you'd realise if your horse was so stressed and worried that he completely freezes up and lies down. So long as this isn't the case, it's up to you to take control and not allow your horse to stop and roll.

Trainer Cheski replies:

I know what this feels like – it's unnerving and I hate the feeling!

Why would he be wanting to roll in an arena? Because he has a consuming urge to scratch his skin and because you're inadvertently setting the stage for this to happen. He feels he has earned the basic right to scratch when he has an itch. We're in a wet winter but on some days it's been quite sunny and hot: perfect climatic conditions for rain scald, an infection of the skin caused by *Dermatophilus congolensis*.

This usually appears during wet, humid times of the year and often when horses are covered. The spores require moisture and warmth in order to be released. Covers, especially synthetic ones, help to

provide a warm and moist environment over the horse's skin, especially if the horse sweats under the cover or if the cover gets wet in the rain.

You can't always see these skin lesions, so to confirm my prognosis I suggest you offer to scratch the skin along his back and rump and watch his expression. If he gets agitated, the skin lesions under his winter woolly coat are really sore.

He needs clipping and then I suggest you apply a liberal dusting of the Inglewood-produced Kwillow Powder. This product appears to settle skin problems without causing any further skin irritation.

With regard to his rolling in the arena, you have now accidentally trained him that this is what he CAN do, every time you slow down to walk or halt on that lovely scratchy surface. So, leave the arena gate open and don't slow down. Keep his legs moving briskly, so you can trot in and out and only walk and halt outside the arena when you're on a surface where he doesn't choose to scratch himself.



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PHOTO: KAMPIC
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Mum's the word

Q: I have an older maiden mare (rising 20) who I would like to try and breed from this coming season. I'd like some advice – am I wasting my time and money with a mare of that age? Is it better to go for natural service or AI? And can you give me some general advice about maximising her chances of a successful pregnancy – does she need any special diets/supplements/tests/vaccinations?

Beth, via email

Vet Dave replies:

Fertility decreases in horses after the age of 12-13. Previous pregnancies do provide some protection for prolonging fertility, but the drop-off is still exponential. Unless you are dead-set on breeding from this mare, I'd suggest that you save money, time and effort by choosing a much younger mare of proven fertility to breed from.

There are 20-year-old mares out there who are still producing foals, but they're the exception rather than the rule, and typically have produced a foal every season.

If you're determined to breed from your mare, I suggest choosing a stallion with proven good fertility. Your mare is likely sub-fertile at best; adding a sub-fertile stallion to the mix will only increase the risk of a poor result.



DREAMSTIME

I would go for chilled semen via AI – chilled semen should be of equal fertility to natural service, and hopefully your vet's gloved arm is cleaner than the stallion's penis. Scanning of your mare will optimise insemination time, and alert the vet to any potential problems such as a post-mating endometritis.

Secondly, a uterine biopsy prior to the breeding season will give you a good idea of her potential fertility. A pre-breeding examination at the same time may also give some idea of the likelihood of success.

Being older, she will probably have poor vulval conformation, and may need

Rain scald

Q: Just wondering what James would suggest for treating rain scald in one of my horses. He is covered so I don't understand why he gets it (and the others don't). Do I remove the scabs? I've been washing him with Vetadine.

Sam, Hamilton

Herbalist James replies:

Rain scald is caused by *Dermatophilus congolensis*, the bacteria which cause mud fever, and (like mud fever) it can be particularly stubborn. We suspect this is because the bacteria establish themselves and then other pathogens take the opportunity to enter the damaged area and exacerbate the

problem. This is the reason why people often develop their own protocols for treating mud fever or rain scald and these will vary in effectiveness from year to year depending on the individual cocktail of pathogens that is causing the problem.

The skin is a very important part of the immune system and by continued washing with strong chemicals the effectiveness of the barrier can be reduced. We prefer a gentle soap perhaps containing tea tree oil. If you



HARRY CARSLAKE

can remove the scabs, the treatment will be more effective, but be careful working around the back end.

We have used a couple of approaches with success. The simplest is to use barberry root (*Berberis vulgaris*). This needs to be a liquid extract which can

a caslick's procedure or more advanced reconstructive surgery to prevent faecal matter from entering the cervix and thus potentially the uterus, causing infections.

// A uterine biopsy... will give you a good idea of her potential fertility and thus the likelihood of her being bred successfully'

Mares have highest fertility when they are in good body condition – this does not mean fat. Overweight or overly thin mares have lower fertility than those in ideal body condition.

If your mare is not in ideal condition, you have the remainder of the winter to correct this. Aside from that, she does not really need a special diet.

Herbalist James replies:

Like most mammals, horses should remain fertile all their lives. Although 20 is certainly at the older end of the scale for a maiden mare, if she is healthy there is no theoretical reason why she should not get in foal. A quick examination by your vet will be able to tell whether the ovaries are working as they should and if the uterus is healthy.

However, older mares (even those who have foaled regularly) tend to have smaller, weaker foals and to rear them

less well, which is why the thoroughbred industry tends not to breed from the older mares.

We find that natural service with no drug intervention is the best way to ensure a healthy pregnancy, but you may need patience and be prepared to serve the mare at least every two days during oestrous. It is very likely that she will not get in foal during her first season, so having your own stallion will make life a lot easier. We had one old mare who would only get in foal if she was run with the stallion. Luckily they got on very well!

If your mare has special genetics that you wish to keep, you might be better to consider an embryo transplant, using the vigour of a much younger mare to gestate and rear the foal. This of course is expensive.

Several herbs can be used to help with pregnancy, but unless there is a specific issue to be addressed, chaste berry (*Vitex agnus-castus*) is really all you need. It will help to normalise the cycles and support the endocrine system.

For an older mare, I would start using it soon so that she gains maximum benefit of the lengthening days and warming temperatures. Chaste is a low-dose herb and 5 mL daily is all she should need.

be diluted about 50-50 with water if necessary. A twice-daily application should quickly get the problem under control. If you find the liquid too difficult or messy, you could mix it with a cream such as Filtabac which will have the added benefit of helping keep air away from the infection. The problem with making it into a cream is that the level of actives available to the infection will be significantly reduced, so you need to put as much of the extract into the cream as you can (30% will probably be close to the limit before it becomes too runny).

Barberry has established broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity and is effective against both bacteria and fungi. However, the other formula we

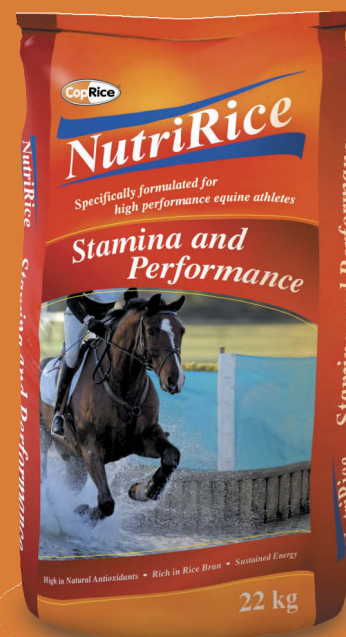
have used includes a much wider range of antimicrobials, including herbs such as sweet Annie (*Artemisia annua*), picrorrhiza (*Picrorrhiza kurra*), usnea (*Usnea barbata*), Pau d'Arco (*Tabebuia avellanedae*) and calendula (*Calendula officinalis*). You might be able to find products with some or all of these in them, but they are quite obscure.

The other approach to take alongside a topical application is to support the immune system internally. The herb of choice for this is echinacea root (*Echinacea purpurea*) and in an acute situation you could easily use 20 ml twice a day of a 1:2 extract. Don't be tempted to use the dried plant, because you will not get the result that you need.



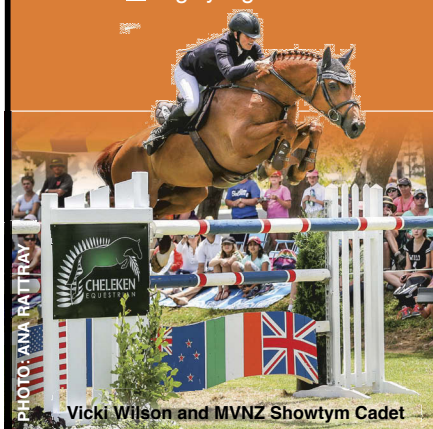
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International Western Dressage Educator visits New Zealand



Wayne G Hipsley BSc, MSc is a professional horseman, multi-licensed judge, university professor, author, equine legal advisor, breed society administrator and licensed judge, equine consultant, clinician, coach and trainer.

Horseman Wayne Hipsley will be visiting our shores in October to develop the new discipline of Western Dressage in New Zealand.

In his 50 years as an equine educator Wayne has learned regardless of the pressures to achieve success, nothing beats a methodical, natural training method and believes that Western Dressage is the ideal discipline for creating a harmonious relationship with your horse.

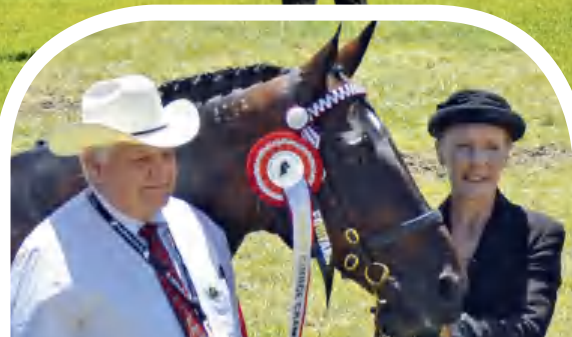
No stranger to New Zealand, Wayne has been sharing his knowledge as a judge, horse trainer and rider educator with the New Zealand equestrian community for over 18 years. Working with many New Zealand associations, judging national breed shows for the Spanish Horse, Appaloosa, American Paint horse, Morgan, Miniature Horse and Pinto horses, A&P shows, Horse of the Year and Equitana. Wayne has also worked as an inspector/evaluator for

the Haflinger and Connemara Pony Societies.

Western Dressage launched at Equidays last year and is best described as a cross over between classical dressage, natural horsemanship and western riding.

The aim of Wayne's visit is to develop a foundation of Western Dressage judges in New Zealand by facilitating a judge's education programme. The first of three stages will be held in Tauranga in October and will teach the Western Dressage enthusiast in rules and regulations, gaits and manoeuvres and how to score ridden tests.

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Wayne will be conducting clinics while in New Zealand. WDANZ judges training clinic October 24 - 26th 2015.

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- 2014/15 NZ 5 yr old series 2nd place
- 2015 Young Event Horse Champion

IN DISGUISE

- 2015 NZ 5yr old Horse of the Year
Champion
- 2014 National One Day Eventing
CNC105 Champion
- 2015 Kihikihi International Horse Trials
CNC1* Champion

CENTAROC

- 2014/15 NZ Young Horse Show 6yr old
Championship 3rd = place
- 2014/15 NZ 6yr old series 4th place
(Leader of series before rider illness
halfway through season)

CANDI MF

- 2015 Amateur Rider of the Year class
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SS REGNEN

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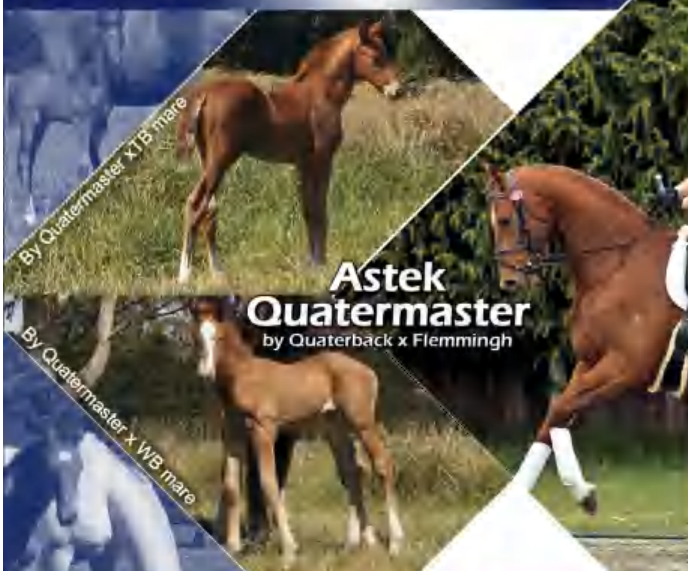


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Above: "Cadenza" by Vollrath Chagall x NZTB mare competing in Bys HOY 2015

Chagall has continued to win and place at Grand Prix Showjumping in 2014/15, competing to 3* GP 1.60m. He also has many Showhunter wins and Championships to his name.

Reknown for his fantastic calm temperament, super canter rhythm and very consistent powerful jump, he will be competed again this season by Phillip Steiner.

Chagall's two oldest progeny both showjumped at HOY 2015 including the very promising "Cadenza" jumping to 1.25m in her first season. He makes a particularly good cross to NZ Thoroughbred mares adding rideable temperament, excellent feet, sound constitution and lots of jump!

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16.1hh 2008 black TB stallion.

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Photograph: EquineSource

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RH Ranginamu

Littorio x Corlando/Laughtons Legend.
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RH Che

**Eurosport Centavos x
Scarlet Rising.**
16.1hh 2010 bay stallion

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BACK IN THE SADDLE

Returning adult rider **Shelley Bridgeman** shares her trials and tribulations



Katie and me with the team (left to right)
Dusty, Canoooge and Cloudy

In May, I became a secondhand horse dealer. I purchased one horse and one pony. I also sold two ponies. At the height of my dealing I was replying to a text from a prospective purchaser of one while holding Katie's probable next pony as the vet took his pre-purchase x-rays.

For someone who claims to not even like the process of buying and selling equines, I was doing a pretty good impression of a used-horse trader. Here is what I discovered in the process.

1. Three's company. Five is a crowd

Katie and I had been quietly thinking about searching for new mounts. Coincidentally, we both found a new show jumper in the same week. We hadn't been actively looking but these two equines came highly recommended and we pretty much fell in love with them at first sight. The new acquisi-

tions took our horse count to an all-time high. Five was just too many for us to handle. Forget keeping them all in work; we had enough trouble just evenly distributing hugs and carrots to three ponies and two horses. We really needed to thin our herd.

2. Selling is an emotional experience

When my daughter got her first pony at the age of seven I told her that a hard part of having ponies is that eventually they have to move on to new owners. And recently, when we were preparing to send Mindy down to her new little rider in the South Island, I said to Katie, "This isn't really sad. She's going to a lovely new home. What would be really sad is if we kept Mindy when you've outgrown her and she didn't get the attention she deserves." Clearly, I didn't believe my own words of wisdom. Saying goodbye was traumatic. I

cried like a baby when the truck came to pick up sweet Mindy.

3. Horse and pony traders love clichés

Certain phrases crop up over and over in equine For Sale advertisements: "This is a very sad sale", "Will be sold to approved home only", "Genuine enquiries only", "No time wasters" and, my favourite, "No tyre-kickers". Such statements are so obvious that they have become almost meaningless. It seems quite unnecessary to include them. Just think: you're never going to read an advertisement that says: "We can't wait to get rid of this thing. Will sell to anyone. Contact me just to be nosy. Waste my time. Come and have a ride just for fun."

4. I am not a tyre-kicker

One of the most common pieces of ad-

// Not only have I purchased the first horse I've tried, but I have bought every single horse and pony we have ever viewed'

vice for prospective horse owners is to never buy the first one you see. It's advice I steadfastly ignore. Not only have I purchased the first horse I've tried, but I have bought every single horse and pony we have ever viewed. I used to feel embarrassed about this track record but as my inability to turn down an equine for sale continues unfettered, I'm getting more relaxed about it. It's reckless. It's amateurish. It's actually quite funny.

5. There's no shortage of advice about selling

Some of the advice is conflicting. While some websites say you should have the pony standing ready for prospective purchasers to view, other sites reckon you're better off letting people see the pony fetched in from the paddock. I guess that dilemma depends on how easy the pony is to catch. All the sites, however, agree that you should tell people about the pony's idiosyncrasies. When it came to our palomino, Leo, I had plenty of material to work with. He can undo knots. He always kicks his feed bucket over. If you put a saddle blanket on him then turn your back, he'll pull it straight off with his teeth. He can also remove Velcro paddock boots from his front legs. In short, if he wasn't a show pony he could perform tricks in the circus.

6. Horse trading can be addictive

By early June, we had three equines once more. My mare, Dusty, was the only original team member to stay on. Mindy and Leo (the two little ponies Katie had owned

since 2013) had gone to new families. Having decided to try show jumping, Katie now has a 148cm bay called Cloudy; he has a spring in his step and a really kind eye. At the same time, I doubled my own horsepower with a grey mare called Canoooge. Her mane is two-tone (it starts out white then abruptly turns to steel grey) and she can smell carrots at 100 paces. Our plan is to stick with these show jumpers for the next few years. We didn't acquire any of them with a short-term view. But now that I've developed a taste for horse dealing, who knows what might happen. I could flick them all on at the drop of a hat – to approved homes only, of course. Watch this space.

H&P



Shelley Bridgeman is an Auckland-based journalist, wife and mother to 12-year-old Katie, and recently returned to riding after a 30-year break. She and her mare Dusty compete at show jumping.

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13 STORES NATIONWIDE

The stage is set

Our dressage columnist previews the upcoming European Championships, which has some intriguing possibilities

We are getting to the meaty stage of world dressage: the European Championships will soon take place in Aachen.

Looking back over the major championships in recent years, we see that the same teams, the same faces, occur over and over again: our sport has a long, slow incubation period. Looking at the team results:

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	Olympics	Euros	WEG	Euros	Olympics	Euros	WEG
gold	Germany	Holland	Holland	GBR	GBR	Germany	Germany
silver	Holland	GBR	GBR	Germany	Germany	Holland	GBR
bronze	Denmark	Germany	Germany	Holland	Holland	GBR	Holland
fourth	Sweden	Sweden	USA	Sweden	Denmark	Denmark	USA
fifth	GBR	Denmark	Denmark	Spain	Sweden	Sweden	Spain

Since 2009, the same three countries – Britain, Germany, and the Netherlands (Holland) – have won all the medals.

Will this change this year? Almost certainly not. But the question is: in which order? The British team is weaker than in previous years, with one horse making Grand Prix scores in the mid 70s, the others low 70s, except – of course – for the remarkable Valegro (with Charlotte Dujardin). He has reached mid-80s in the last two major shows, and could lift the British to team gold this year.

The Dutch have a couple of riders – Edward Gal and Hans-Peter Minderhoud – likely to reach high 70s, but don't have an 80% combination: the remarkable Parzival (Adeline Corneilsson), who has been scoring over 80% since 2009, an incredible feat, recently at Rotterdam produced his lowest GP score for many years – 74% – and perhaps is finished as an individual medal prospect, and maybe as a team member.

So, it will be up to the Germans to challenge for gold.

But since the emphatic German team victory at last year's World Championships, their most reliable horse – Damon Hill (Helen Langehanenberg) – has been sold. The beautiful Desperados (Kristina Sprehe) has been scoring 80% recently. The world's most prolific producer of international Grand Prix horses, Isabell Werth, on her second-string horse, Don Johnson, and newcomer Jessica Bredow-Werndl (Unee BB) are both close behind with high 70s.

If these four become the German team, their scores would probably not be enough to overcome the Valegro-boosted British total – though it should be pretty close.

// The Germans have a couple of aces up their sleeves, a couple of combinations who just could be very close to, or even beat, Valegro...'



LIBBY LAW

But the Germans have a couple of aces up their sleeves, a couple of combinations who just could be very close to, or even beat, Valegro – but both have had soundness issues, neither have competed for quite some time as I write this.

They are, of course, the stunning Bella Rose of Isabell Werth, the horse who was close behind Valegro in the GP at last year's Worlds – a stunning test many thought should have won – and the remarkable Totilas.

Totilas, under Dutch rider Edward Gal, scored 84% in the 2009 Europeans and the 2010 Worlds, before being sold to Germany for the less experienced Matthias Rath, who scored 79% for third place in the 2011 Europeans, before the horse had soundness issues.

He returned at last year's Aachen show to win the GP with 82% (beating a very below-par Valegro), and is scheduled to return to competition this month. But a video of him performing a practice GP during his training in Holland in June shows a horse still with amazing steps, brilliant piaffe / passage, but very tense, very short in the neck; for me, a sad picture.

I hope – and think – that the judges are losing interest in this tense way of working; there are other, more beautiful, pictures to compare it with these days. The German

selectors will earn their keep this month.

Anyone wanting an outside bet might take Sweden to beat the Netherlands for bronze.

The stylish Tinna Wilhelmson (Don Auriello) and the precise Patrik Kittel (Scandic) have both reached the high 70s, much on a par with the two Dutch men, so I guess it comes down to the



BOB LANGRISH

Left: Matthias Rath and Totilas; above: Isabelle Werth and the stunning Bella Rose, who has had soundness issues

scores of the third riders in each team.

Recent British Olympic team averages – 63% in 1996, 65% in 2000, 68% in 2004, 66% in 2008, then a massive 79% in 2012 – were, before the last Olympics, of the same order as a New Zealand team would make today. This should give us hope that we, too, make the step up to top-level GP: if the Brits have done it, why can't we? Seven years ago they were where we are now...

Olympic fever will strike soon, if it hasn't already, and once again the sport will be left to answer a difficult question. If a New Zealand team qualifies for Rio (a very unlikely event), or, more likely, one or more individuals qualify, should they go?

The arguments for or against are pretty well rehearsed: in favour of going is the concept that "these people have worked hard, they are our best; they deserve to go for their efforts; we want to show the world that we exist (in a dressage sense); it's about participating, not medals..."

Those against raise the view that "we have no chance of success; all the time, effort and money put in to support such an adventure we could put to better use elsewhere; we have proved that we can get there, why go for another weak showing?..."

What would our chances be? If we look at some statistics from those top international mentioned before:

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	Olympics	Euros	Worlds	Euros	Olympics	Euros	Worlds
#horses scoring 70%+	10	18	15	20	30	23	36
#horses scoring 75%+	1	4	4	7	12	10	8

A score of 70% will not get us through to the second round of a major championships any more; a team average of 70% will get us to about halfway up the table. Although we are close to these two benchmark figures, we are not there yet; "we" – who-

ever that is – will have to decide what criteria any aspirant must satisfy.

The figures would indicate that a team average of 70%, and an individual score of say 73%, would be justifiable demands of our top combinations if we expect to be more than mere participants.

But I know of many who prefer to set the bar much lower, so that we can have some sort of participation.

Who makes these decisions? I don't feel that it's fair to leave them to the selectors or the board; this is something which should be put to the entire dressage membership: a case for another survey?

Next year at the Olympics, only one non-European country could get into medal contention: the USA. They make an intriguing study, but more of that on another occasion. For now, let's all settle down, prepare for some sleepless nights, and admire the world's best.

H&P

Waikato-based rider, trainer, coach and father of two Bill Noble is originally from England, but has been a leading identity in the New Zealand dressage scene since he moved here in 1998. He has trained 15 horses to Grand Prix level.



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The faerie princess of eventing



Jonelle Price's mare Faerie Dianimo is feisty, opinionated and an exceptional talent: **Jane Thompson** takes a closer look



Faerie Dianimo looks and jumps like a gazelle, and after finishing a very close second at just her second four-star, is a very exciting prospect for the Rio Olympics

The fine but fiery grey mare, Faerie Dianimo impressed all at Luhmühlen's CCI4* three-day event in June when New Zealand eventing star Jonelle Price rode her to second place, only 0.1 pen behind the winner, Germany's Ingrid Klimke with another mare, FRH Escada JS.

Jonelle fondly refers to Faerie Dianimo (whose stable name is actually Maggie May) as 'The Princess.' She is a challenging horse, and wears a pretty red ribbon in her tail as a warning to others who might think she is the angel she looks. Jonelle describes her as feisty and opinionated, but says she loves jumping. And she will "only tolerate dressage if it is an international arena with a big crowd."

Her dressage performance was superb in Luhmühlen, with a personal best score both for the mare and her rider, 32.8pen.

She looked as if she floated around the

beautiful arena. Observers thought she was a little hard done by not to get better marks, especially for her flying changes which while only scoring 7.5, looked as good as any. Perhaps the judges were still warming up; she was the first to go on the second day.

Jonelle was delighted. "We have never quite managed to nail it in the ring until today but I know there is more to come from her. She is a huge talent, but her temperament has meant that she hasn't always been able to show it. We have had glimpses of it in the past."

Jonelle's dressage coach, Isabelle Wessels, also really rates the mare but admitted to being quite nervous at Luhmühlen. "She is so good. I know how good she can be, but you never know with her."

At Tattersalls in Ireland, the big event before Luhmühlen, Maggie had scored 45.6 in the CIC3* dressage test. While

it was a different test, there was no comparison.

At Tattersalls she was quite tense, but showed some good established work and hints of that brilliance. Jonelle had really tried to get her to relax, and obviously laid the groundwork for a much improved performance three weeks later.

Jonelle certainly thinks highly of the horse. "She fights to leave the fences up. What can be difficult to work with on a daily basis, makes this horse so good in competition."

as a three-year-old. Angela Mace worked with her then, and she was bucked off her every day for about six months! I wasn't so keen at that point but Angela persevered and did a great job with her as a young horse."

With Angela, Maggie was placed fourth in the Burghley 4YO event horse class, and then won the 5YO class at Burghley the following year.

By this time it was obvious she was such a careful jumper and needed a special rider; Jacky suggested to Trisha that

// She fights to leave the fences up. What can be difficult to work with on a daily basis, makes this horse so good in competition'

Jonelle traditionally concentrates on the autumn competitions with Maggie, but this year started her spring season with an Open Intermediate at South of England where she finished 17th, after having a quiet run on cross-country. She then had another run in an OI, followed by one in an Advanced class before heading to Tattersalls then Luhmühlen.

Last year at the Pau CCI4* Maggie was fourth, after scoring a 48.3 dressage and incurring 11.2 time faults cross-country. Her best result last season was winning the Blenheim CIC3* 8 & 9YO class, beating a quality field. And her last show jumping rail was in April 2014.

Trisha Rickard bred Faerie Dianimo for Englishwoman Jacky Green, with the idea she would be her dressage horse; the two women are still her co-owners.

Jacky recalls how excited she was when she saw her as a little foal. "I thought I had my perfect dressage horse. She came to me

Jonelle would suit the mare, and a great partnership has formed as a result.

Faerie Diamino is listed with British Eventing as 16hh, but standing alongside her, she doesn't look that tall. She's built more like a greyhound, and you could be forgiven for passing her over for a bigger-boned type.

By Keystone Dimmagio out of Faerie Dazzler VII, herself an Advanced eventer, Maggie is also in the breeding business now. "We have done one embryo transfer with her this spring, using Esteban [a thoroughbred stallion], so she does have one foal on the way."

Jacky says that she may well go back to Trisha as a broodmare when she has finished competing.

The plans for Maggie are to head to Pau later this year. Jonelle is hoping that if she puts in another good four-star performance there, she would have done enough to be selected for the Rio Olympics.



While it is still over a year before Rio, and we all know what can happen to horses during any year, let alone the lead-up to the Olympics, the New Zealand eventing riders are already starting to jostle to be in the team of four.

The Prices are the on-fire eventing couple and have a superb team of horses; five between them in the High Performance squad: Faerie Dianimo and Classic Moet for Jonelle, and Wesko, Bango and Ringwood Sky Boy for Tim.

Sir Mark Todd is delighted that his 2012 Olympic horse, NZB Campino, is back in form and qualified to compete at Rio, giving him a back-up to his current number one horse, Leonidas. At Luhmühlen, Campino was fifth in what was his only other four-star besides London and he looked all quality.

Sir Mark was rueing the complete "fluffing" of one flying change in the dressage, otherwise he could have been celebrating even more!

While Andrew Nicholson (Qwanza) and Blyth Tait (Xanthus III) finished 22nd and 23rd at Luhmühlen, both of these riders looked superb cross-country and





Clockwise from far left: among the contenders for the four berths at Rio are Sir Mark Todd and NZB Campino, Blyth Tait and Xanthus III, Jesse Campbell and Kaapachino, Tim Price and Bango, and Caroline Powell and Onwards & Upwards

The road to Rio

Jane Thompson analyses the likely makeup of the eventing squad for Rio

the mistakes (both at the third-to-last fence) was nothing to be concerned about. Blyth is riding as well as ever, so don't be surprised if you see him putting in performances in the lead-up to team announcements that make the selectors' deliberations more complicated. While he didn't make it on to any squads this time, with a bit more luck on his side, then surely they must include him. Blyth also has some other quality horses in his stables, as does Andrew who has one of the best strings of four-star horses worldwide, although whether he will be (or want to be) "reintegrated" into the New Zealand team before Rio remains to be seen. It is good to hear, though, that his 2013 Kentucky winner Quimbo is back in work after a lengthy injury spell.

Jesse Campbell made a good start to his four-star eventing career, finishing 16th on Kaapachino at Luhmühlen, though this included a show jumping round he would rather forget.

Unfortunately the four rails down plus time faults meant he hasn't gained his Olympic qualifying result yet but there is certainly talent there and his obvious love for his 'Kaapy' is very endearing.

His performance on both his horses at Luhmühlen (Amsterdam 21 finished 13th in the CIC3*) certainly repays the faith NZ selectors have had in having him on the High Performance Accelerator Squad.

Lizzie Brown, the other rider on the accelerator squad, needs to pull some good performances out now, after having to withdraw Princeton before the CIC3* dressage at Luhmühlen, and then retiring on xc with a "not-right" Henton Attorney General.

Caroline Powell also has been quietly

If Lucy Jackson's Willy Do recovers from his current injury and notches up some good performances, plus if Jock Paget and his two proven four-star horses, Clifton Promise and Clifton Lush, are still in the mix, and if Clarke Johnstone's Balmoral Sensation can perform on the international stage like he has at home, the selectors will really have their work cut out to chose the team of four.

The next crucial event in the build-up to Rio is to gain Olympic qualification at

// Blyth is riding as well as ever, so don't be surprised if you see him putting in performances in the lead-up to team announcements that make the selectors' deliberations more complicated'

building Onwards & Upwards back up after their unlucky fall at Badminton, and predictions are that it won't be long before they too demand to be included in selectors' deliberations. Their performance in the CIC3* at Bramham was impressive.

Boekelo (The Netherlands) on October 8-10.

If the team doesn't qualify at this event, the only other qualification option is via the FEI rider rankings within the period March 9, 2015 to March 6, 2016. **H&P**



LIBBY LAW

Andrew's Olympic return

Kiwi Andrew Bennie, himself a former Olympic-level event rider, has been named as one of the three judges for the 2016 Rio Games, as **Jane Thompson** reports

It's the first time a New Zealander has had the honour of judging at equestrian sport's pinnacle event, the Olympics, and Andrew Bennie is thrilled to have been asked.

"Obviously only three people get to do this every four years, so it really is a huge privilege," he says.

The judges, known as the Ground Jury, preside over the whole eventing competition. They are the ones who make the decision on who gets through the horse inspections (of which there are two, one before the competition and one before the show jumping phase). The Ground Jury also judges the dressage, has final approval as to the fairness and safety of the cross-country course, and has an oversight of the jumping phases, making final calls on any appeals, or overriding decisions that may have been made on the day by fence judges, timekeepers and technical delegates.

American Marilyn Payne will be the President of the Ground Jury at Rio, and the third member is Sandy Phillips, former wife of Captain Mark Phillips, an American who is based in England.

Andrew, originally from Kaitia, represented New Zealand in eventing on many occasions, notably at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics riding Jade and at the 1988 Seoul Olympics riding Grayshott, where he was part of the bronze-medal-winning team. He has been based in England for many years now, but still makes regular trips home to coach, especially in the Northland region.

Andrew has had a busy year with his eventing judging, most recently presiding at the prestigious CCI4* at Luhmühlen, and has had the Olympics in the back of his mind.

"This has been my year! I am also going to be doing the European Eventing Championships at Blair Castle, and Burghley. "I had to turn down Adelaide because we are only allowed to do five CCI competitions per year."

His first four-star judging appointment was Badminton last year.

Andrew also has recently been upgraded to a List 1 Judge for British Dressage, which means he can now judge at Grand Prix level. "I got a good report when I did

my last exam two years ago so I thought I might as well carry on and try and do the next one," he says.

But as prestigious and grand as it sounds, it's not going to make Andrew his fortune. He says despite what most people think, the pay is nothing to write home about.

"In Europe, we get 100 euros [around NZ\$165] a day. In England, most events will give you £1 [around NZ\$2.30] per horse that you judge. It doesn't take a lot of adding up to realise you can be away for a whole week and you don't earn a lot of money. But I enjoy doing it and it is a great honour to be involved in some of these big events, so you make those sacrifices and you try to make up the money when you are at home."

Andrew is based at the Ingestre Stables in Stafford, where he makes a living out of coaching, predominantly at the lower levels.

"I don't do a lot of coaching for advanced riders. The Brits have their team coaches, and the Kiwis have their team coaches. There are not a lot of opportunities for others to coach at that high level."

One of the requirements of being on the Ground Jury at the Olympics is to go to this year's test event in August in Brazil. When asked whether he would have an oversight on how the facilities and course development are going, Andrew wasn't quite sure what his input would be. "I haven't heard any details about the test event yet, apart from the fact we will be going in August. I have been told there will be meetings to discuss all aspects of the eventing competition. What those meetings will involve I still don't know; it is all new to me."

And will his being on the judging panel help New Zealand's chances during the event? Andrew laughs and is quick to point out that it won't!

"I have to be totally unbiased. I have signed a declaration about conflict of interest. I am not allowed to have any team selection influence for any country, or do any training for riders or horses that could be competing, in the nine months leading up to the Olympics.

"Nor can I be an owner or even a part-owner of any horse!"

H&P

LIBBY LAW



PETER NIXON

Andrew in his competitive days, riding Wottabert at Badminton in 1999

// It is a great honour to be involved in some of these big events, so you make those sacrifices'

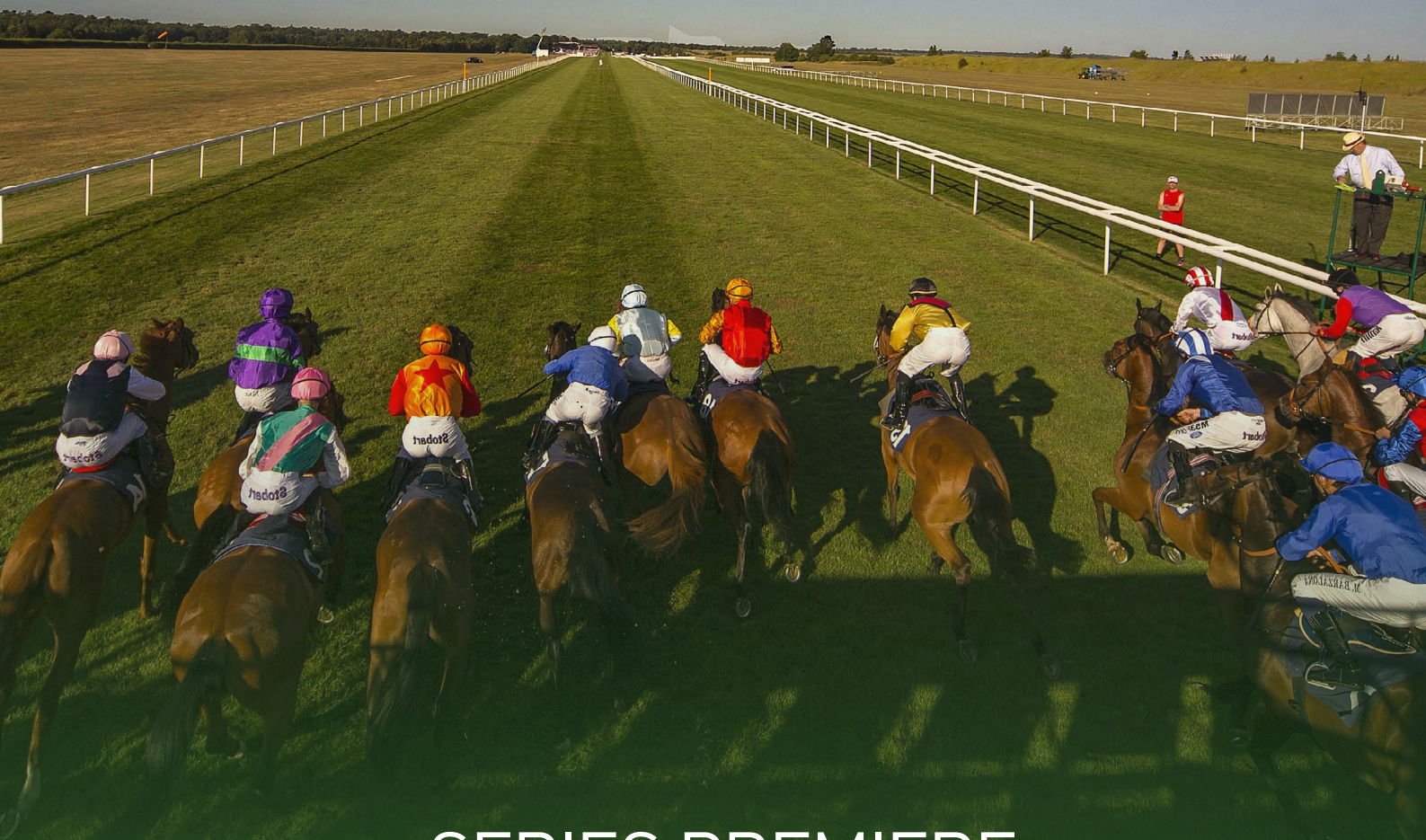


Andrew on the job at Luhmühlen, with his fellow judges at the horse inspection

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JUMP OFF

with

CLAIRE WILSON

Our Grand Prix show jumper and gossip queen shares news and views from the jumping scene



Most gossipers talk about people's 'dirty laundry'. This is a term usually used to describe someone's personal secrets that they don't want anyone to find out about. And you know what, this month's gossip column is all about 'dirty laundry'... but more in a sense of getting stains out of your riding gear! As I revealed last month, the shocking reality is that I am not (despite what everyone thinks) the world's best housewife.

So, I have had to do some extensive research on the topic, and I've had a huge array of weird and wild stain removal solutions suggested to me! Helen McNaught and Erin Clark both suggested applying white vinegar to the stains – and yes, this method did help! And then there were a few unusual suggestions: for example, Jenny Pearce uses whitening toothpaste on her stains, while Kirsty Percy reaches for the Janola. Other wacky ideas include soaking dirty laundry in lemons or milk, and applying golden syrup to the stains. I have heard it all; Ladies and Gentleman, you might say that I have 'aired the dirty laundry'! So, go ahead and try these suggestions for yourself, but let me warn you; some of these stain removal ideas can have side effects, including making you irresistible to your pets!



ENOUGH OF 'talking dirty'. It is time to update you on a more innocent topic, like our young mid-winter travellers. Hannah Bodle is spending a short stint with the Creightons in Australia, Caitlyn Horton is over in Denmark with Bruce Goodin and Larina Dolman is spending some time in the UK with Tim and Jonelle Price. Emily Fraser is staying on in Europe with Gilbert Boeckmann, Jack Webb is heading that way to work for Karen Donkers in Belgium and Dani Maurer is just back from riding in Oz for Vicki Roycroft.



Logan Massie is heading back to New Zealand in the spring after an amazing experience with Cian O'Connor. But I will be interested to see how Logan gets on trying to reclaim some of his horses off his sister, Georgia – especially as she had such a stellar season last year, winning the Junior Rider Series.



I hear that Sarah Fannin's two Grand Prix ponies have been sold; Luke Myers has Sir Samson and Ono has gone to Sarah Scott! And there have been a few horse deals happening over the winter months, Julie Davy's Ngahiwi Flavour has gone to Leah Leifting, who is training with Team Cubitt over the winter. Sara Brookes has purchased In The Red from Australia, and Charlotte McGregor's NZ Supreme has been sold to Taranaki's Vanessa Nagle.



A huge congratulations to Christine and Dave Dawkins, on the recent birth of baby Georgia – a filly foal for Seattle Lodge. And an achievement of a different kind: congrats to Nicki Main, Cameron and Tracey Lammas for their Community Service Award, for their Canter for Cancer fundraising events.



Well done also to Laura Inkster, who placed fifth in the farewell final at the FEI World Show Jumping Challenge, held in Bulgaria recently. I believe her dad, Murray, experienced his own version of The Hangover movie, getting lost one night and returning home in the morning without any belongings, and another night had him dancing with all the FEI judges and officials. It is great that the Inkster family performed stylishly both in the show jump ring and on the dance floor!



The Jumping Conference and AGM have been and gone, and I'm sorry to say that I didn't attend this year. So I, like many others, need to trust that the democratic votes were the right and preferred options. It was great to see so many applicants for the board positions – lots of knowledgeable, passionate people who want to contribute to our sport. I'm sorry to see the levy system is to hang around for another year, but obviously there were just as many riders in favour of this system, as against. I guess I am going to have to suck it up; get my head around the complicated system and keep track of the rising costs. We need to trust that this registration system is going to 'grow our sport' – and only time will tell!



August marks the month that a new competition manager for the upcoming Horse of the Year Show will be employed by SMC Events. I have no doubt that we have many capable show director types in our horse community – but I am just not sure how many would be brave enough to take on this huge project! So, whoever gets the top job; "May the force be with you!"

H&P

Grand Prix jumper, trainer and pony club mother Claire Wilson lives at Mt Herbert Farm in Waipukurau with her husband Simon and their children Anna and Tim, and is a keen participant in the NZ jumping scene



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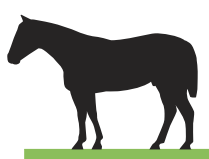
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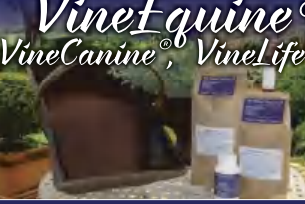
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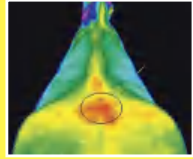
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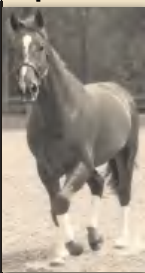
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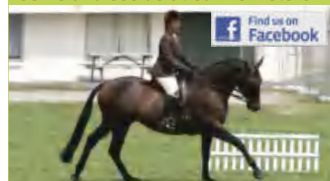


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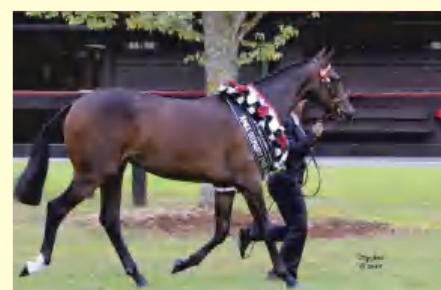


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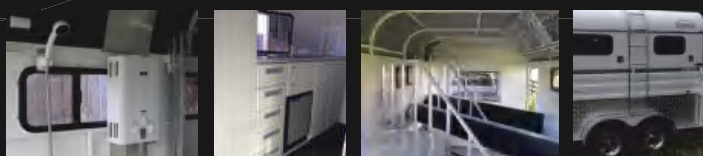
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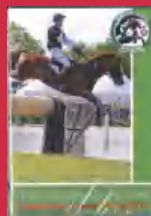
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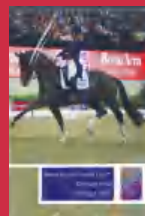
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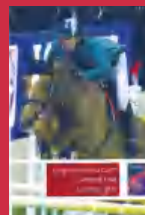
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2015 FEI World Cup Dressage Finals Las Vegas

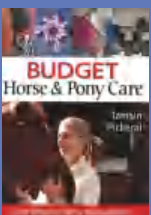
Charlotte Dujardin and Valegro continued their winning ways in freestyle by scoring 94.196. Brief highlights of the GP is followed by the top 5 Freestyle tests in full. Additional footage includes Valegro's GP test in full plus additional Freestyle tests. Approx 50 mins \$50



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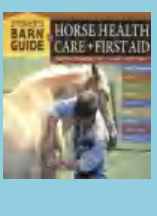
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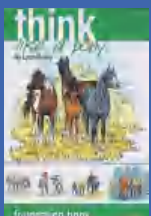
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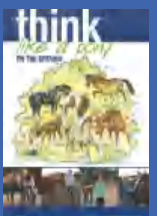
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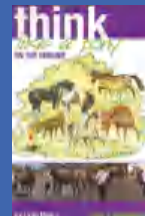
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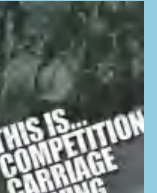
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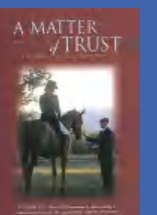
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DEBBIE STEVENS

Nicki with X Box, Makahiwi Luck at Last and Ashaven Havana Nights

Hamilton's Nicki Klevering is an amateur dressage rider getting some great results. She was nominated by a fellow rider, who describes her as phenomenally hard-working.

Nicki (23) is a qualified early childhood teacher and works full-time at a childcare centre. She is also studying for her Masters in Educational Leadership, has two horses in work and is the vice-president of Dressage Waikato.

She and her 17-year-old TB ex-eventer, X Box ('Ted') last season won the Superior Rubber Surfaces Accumulator Series at Level 3, and recently had their first Level 4 starts.

Nicki grew up in a non-horsey family and bought her first pony at age 13 with money she had saved from working in a fish and chip shop. She had to pay for everything herself, saving up for lessons and hitching the occasional ride to shows with friends. She taught herself to ride 'by reading every single book in the library.'

What do you enjoy most about dressage?

I love learning and dressage is an ongoing learning journey. I also enjoy the challenge of making everything look effortless and being in harmony with your horse.

Which of your horses should we look out for this season?

Jazz (Ashaven Havana Nights). Jazz is a TB/Clydie cross and although she is seven she had no prior experience in dressage. She has lovely movement and a willing nature so I am very excited about the season ahead.

What moment has given you most pride?

Winning the Level 2 Amateur Champion at the North Island Champs in 2014 on X Box.

If you could compete any horse, dead or alive, who would it be?

Valegro. It would be amazing to feel exactly what I should be aiming for!

Tell us about your sponsors

I am very fortunate to be sponsored by Equissentials and Rider's Diary. Equissentials stock the Harry's Horse range which looks fantastic. Rider's Diary is every busy rider's essential: I am able to keep track of all my work, training and horsey appointments plus worming, shoeing and competition results.

Tell us about your trainers

I train with Kallista Field, who encourages me to strive for my best. I also have help from Lynley Schollum. I was lucky enough to win the Equicoach Bootcamp Scholarship and Jane Pike is helping me learn how to perform at my best mentally. This winter I began working with a personal trainer, Cody Ryan – I can already feel the results!

What are your future plans?

I aim to take Jazz to both HOY and Nationals, and get Ted to Level 5.

If you could buy anything to assist you, what would it be?

An arena. Or even better, a covered arena with mirrors.

H&P

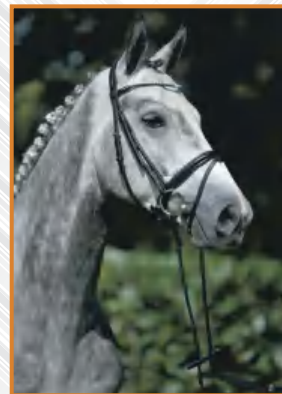


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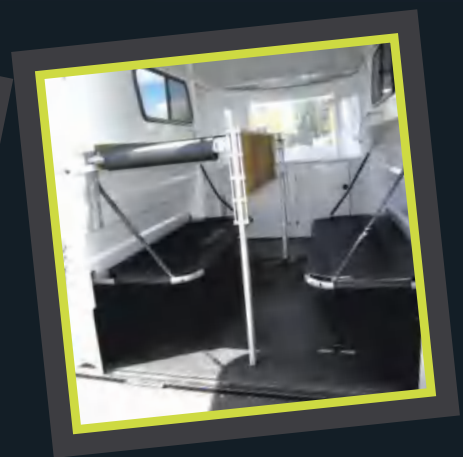
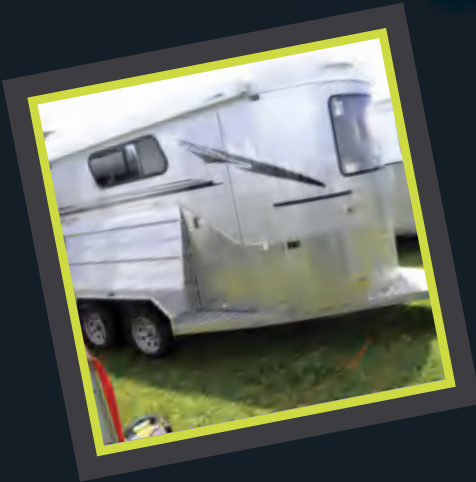
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